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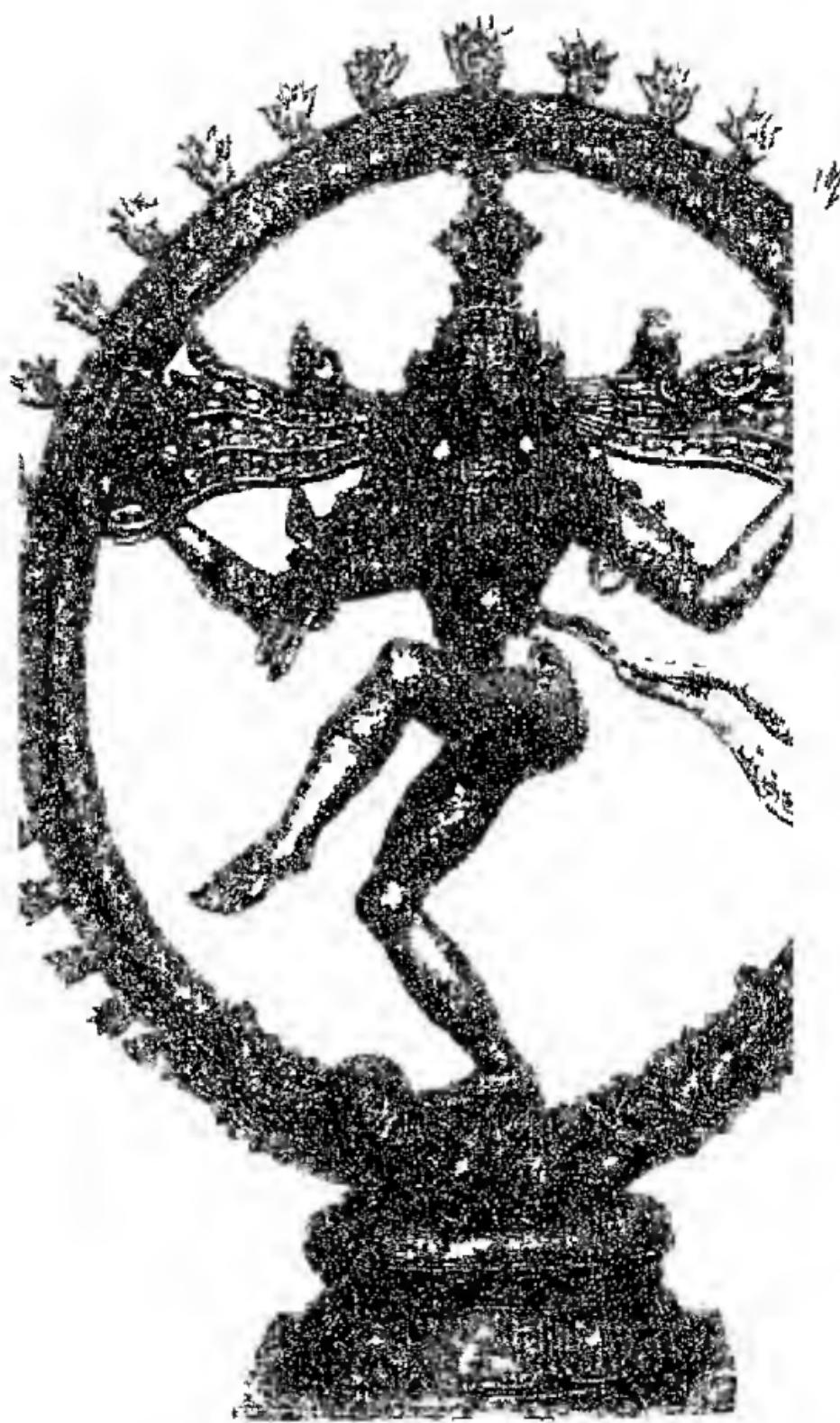
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## EDITORIAL PREFACE

" Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things "

No section of the population of India can afford to neglect her ancient heritage. In her literature, philosophy, art, and regulated life there is much that is worthless, much also that is distinctly unhealthy; yet the treasures of knowledge, wisdom, and beauty which they contain are too precious to be lost. Every citizen of India needs to use them, if he is to be a cultured modern Indian. This is as true of the Christian, the Muslim, the Zoroastrian as of the Hindu. But, while the heritage of India has been largely explored by scholars, and the results of their toil are laid out for us in their books, they cannot be said to be really available for the ordinary man. The volumes are in most cases expensive, and are often technical and difficult. Hence this series of cheap books has been planned by a group of Christian men, in order that every educated Indian, whether rich or poor, may be able to find his way into the treasures of India's past. Many Europeans, both in India and elsewhere, will doubtless be glad to use the series.

The utmost care is being taken by the General Editors in selecting writers, and in passing manuscripts for the press. To every book two tests are rigidly applied: everything must be scholarly, and everything must be sympathetic. The purpose is to bring the best out of the ancient treasures, so that it may be known, enjoyed, and used.



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SRI LANKA

THE HERITAGE OF INDIA SERIES

HYMNS OF THE  
TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

BY

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ASSOCIATION PRESS  
5, RUSSELL STREET, CALCUTTA

LONDON: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
NEW YORK, TORONTO, MELBOURNE,  
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

1921

To  
C. M. P.

## AUTHORS' NOTE

THIS book has gone through the Press under unusually difficult circumstances. During most of the time one of the authors has been in Mesopotamia, the other in India. Partly from this cause, and partly through practical difficulties of printing, there are a few minor inconsistencies in the application of the system of transliteration.

The authors would have wished, had it been possible, to alter the note on stanza 17 (p. 27), which is there treated as a case of intercession for others. Fuller comparison of this hymn with other similar ones in Tamil religious poetry convinces them that the "she" in the hymn is none other than the devotee, who compares himself to a love-sick women, as in stanza 19.

They would also like to acknowledge their indebtedness to Dr Farquhar, General Editor of the Series, for much hard work done in the interests of this book; also to Mrs. Phillips, Mr G. S. Duraiswamy, B.A., and the Rev. F. Goodwill, for valuable help given with proof-reading.

The Wesleyan Mission Press, Mysore, which does not usually print Tamil, has been good enough for the sake of this book to undertake an unfamiliar task, which it has carried through with unwearied patience.

## CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
I SAMBANDAR AND HIS HYMNS—STANZAS 1—24 . . . . .	10
II. APPARSWĀMI AND HIS HYMNS—STANZAS 25—64 . . . . .	35
III SUNDARAMŪRTI AND HIS HYMNS—STANZAS 65—79 . . . . .	70
IV MĀNIKKA VĀSAHAR AND HIS HYMNS—STANZAS 80—136 . . . . .	84
APPENDIX I. SHRINES MENTIONED IN THE POEMS . . . . .	128
APPENDIX II: SYSTEM OF TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION . . . . .	129
INDEX . . . . .	131

## ILLUSTRATIONS

1 SIVA NĀTARĀJĀ . . . . .	Frontispiece
2. SAMBANDAR . . . . .	Following page 8
3 APPARSWĀMI . . . . .	34
4 SUNDARAR . . . . .	68
5. MĀNIKKA VĀSAHAR . . . . .	84

*NOTE.—The bronze statuettes of the poets reproduced in this volume are not historical portraits but imaginative figures, created in accordance with popular traditions and used in the worship of the temple and the home.*

## INTRODUCTION

### (A)—The Hymns and their Significance

THE voice of chanting and song, to the accompaniment of unfamiliar instruments, floats out over the high wall of the temple in the coolness of the evening or the dawn, making the Western passer-by wonder what it is that is being chanted and sung. If only he had a Hindu hymn-book he thinks he could learn from it the spirit of Hinduism as well as a non-Christian could learn Christianity from Christian hymns. For the Tamil country at any rate there is such a hymn-book, and our present aim is to give enough specimens from it for readers to know what the hymns are like. Englishmen are wanting to understand India more than they ever wanted before, for their debt to India is heavy. Indians are wanting more than ever before to know the wonderful past of their own country, and the wonder of it is all bound up with its religion. At such a time these hymns are worth looking into, for they are being sung in temples and homes throughout the Tamil country, and Tamil is the mother-tongue of more than eighteen millions of people. For pious Śaivites they equal in authority the Sanskrit Vedas, the mere learning of them by rote is held to be a virtue, and devout Tamil parents compel their children to memorize them in much the same way as Christian parents make their children learn the Psalms.

## 2 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŠAIVITE SAINTS

The hymns here given are specimens from the Dēvāram and the Tiruvāchakam. The Dēvāram is the first of the collections of works held as canonical by Tamil Šaivites. Its hymns were composed between six and eight hundred A.D. by the three authors of whom this book gives some account, and the whole was put together in one collection of 797 stanzas by Nambi Āndār Nambi about 1000 A.D. The Tiruvāchakam, or Sacred Utterance, was written by one author, Māṇikya Vāchaka (Tamilized as Māṇikka Vāsahar) at a date so far unsettled that scholars are still divided on the question whether it preceded or followed the Dēvāram, though most scholars place it in the ninth, or early in the tenth, century. Whenever it was written, it stands even higher than the Dēvāram in the affections of Tamil people.

Out of an immense number of hymns we have tried to select those which are most representative, those which are favourites, and those which contain the most striking thoughts. But it is amazingly difficult to give a fair or adequate idea of them in an English rendering. They are essentially songs, intended to be sung to Indian tunes, in metres which no English metre can represent. Much of their charm depends upon assonance, upon plays upon words, upon close knitting of word with word, upon intricacy of metre and rhyme, almost as much as upon the substance. We can only claim a fair degree of accuracy in our renderings, apologizing to the lovers of Tamil poetry for the plainness and poverty of our representation of so rich and varied an original. All our translations are new, and nearly all of those from the Dēvāram represent verses which have never before been done

into English. One of the translators of this book learned as a Śaivite child to love these hymns, and therefore is the authority in matters of interpretation, the Englishman being responsible for the form. We shall be quite satisfied if our translations serve to call attention to the poems, and are some day replaced by worthier renderings.

We have tried to reduce introductory matter to a minimum, only giving such information as is necessary to enable readers to understand the hymns and the allusions in them. But it is entirely necessary to say something about the worship of Śiva, and to give a few words of biography of each of the four authors from whose work this book contains extracts.

### (B)—The Worship of Śiva

#### 1. *Its history previous to these poems*

The word Śiva occurs even in the Rig Veda, but there it is only in conjunction with Rudra. The joining together of these names provokes conjectures as to whether we have here an amalgamation of two earlier deities, an Aryan and a Dravidian, but these need not detain us here, since clearly even at this early date Śiva was an Aryan deity, identical with Rudra the storm-god, and father of the Maruts, storm-gods themselves. Rudra is a handsome god; he uses his thunderbolts chiefly for punishing evil-doers, and is on the whole a kindly being. The name Śiva means 'auspicious,' and must not be confused with the Tamil word for 'red,' although as it happens Rudra-Śiva was a red being.

## 4 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŠAIVITE SAINTS

In the period of the Purānas, we find that Śiva, instead of being one of a multitude of nature-deities, has risen to be one of the great triad, Brahmā, Vishnu, and Śiva, who are far above all gods. How the change has come about we have not yet the means of discovering. The function has changed as much as the person, Śiva being now the destroyer as Brahmā is the creator and Vishnu the preserver. The process of reduction in the number of the superior deities goes further, and Brahmā falls practically into the background, leaving only Vishnu and Śiva as supreme beings for the worship of the people of India. By the time Hinduism penetrated southwards into the Tamil country, probably somewhere about 500 B.C., it had two main forms, the worship of Vishnu and the worship of Śiva, the two being not too sharply disconnected. The Tamil Hindu believed in the existence of both, but held his own god, whether Śiva or Vishnu, to be supreme. Hinduism seemed to be firmly established, but was dangerously shaken when the Jains and Buddhists spread over South India. Then came for the Vaishnavites the teachers known as the Ālvārs, while Śaivism was defended by the poets of whose work this book gives specimens. Hinduism was saved, but it existed henceforth in two distinct forms, Vaishnavism and Śaivism, separated by a wider gulf than in earlier days.

### *2. The portrait of Śiva and its interpretation*

Śiva as imagined by his worshippers has a human form, usually with one but occasionally with five or six heads. He has three eyes, the right one being really the sun, the left eye the moon, and the one in the middle of his forehead fire. His reddish hair is

matted in the ascetic way, and on it is the crescent moon, the Ganges, and one or more cobras, while wreathed about it is a garland of *kondai* (Cassia) flowers. He has four arms, though occasional representations show eight, but one body and two legs. Commonly he is seated on a grey-coloured bull. In colour he is reddish, but his body is smeared over with white sacred ash. He holds in his hands various things such as a battle-axe, a deer, fire, a trident, a bow. Round his neck, which is dark, hangs a long necklace, the beads of which are skulls. At his waist he wears sometimes an elephant's hide, sometimes a tiger-skin, sometimes only a very scanty loin-cloth. Generally his consort, *Umā*, is at his left side, but sometimes he is pictured as half man and half woman, the right half (*Śiva*) being pink-coloured, and the left half (*Umā*) green or black. *Śiva*'s abode is said to be on Mount *Kailāsa* in the *Himālayas*, but among his special haunts is the burning-ground, where bodies are cremated. One of the favourite manifestations of *Śiva* is that as *Natarāja*, the dancer in the great hall at *Chidambaram*, of which we give a picture (see frontispiece). Here *Śiva* has one face, four arms, and two legs, performing a spirited dance. His right foot rests on a demon named *Muyalahan*. He is sometimes represented as dancing along with *Kālī*, not the *Kālī* who in North India is identified with *Umā*, but a she-devil feared in the South.

Doubtless each of these features in the manifestation of *Śiva* has its history, but that is unknown at present. The legends give fanciful explanations of most of them. The tiger's skin and the elephant's hide, for instance, are those which *Śiva* stripped from the wild animals sent against him by the magic of his

## 6 HYMNS OF TAMIL ŠAIVITE SAINTS

enemies the rishis of Darukāvana. But it is of more interest to find the religious ideas which these things suggest to a thoughtful Šaivite devotee to-day. The hides remind him that Šiva has all power, and all opposition to him is vain. That right foot of Natarāja set on Muyalahan means that God crushes down all evil. Those skulls in his necklace are the skulls of successive Brahmās, each of whom died after a life lasting many ages. This is a way of saying that while other gods at last come to their end, Šiva is eternal and unchanging. Šiva's dance suggests how easily, and how rhythmically, he performs his five functions of making, preserving, destroying, judging and purifying. And his dance in the burning-ground may sometimes carry the message that God becomes most real to men in the solemn hour when they part from their dead.

### *3. Four common legends and their meaning.*

Of the many legends concerning Šiva four are so frequently alluded to in our poems that they should be told here, to avoid repeated explanatory notes.

1. Brahmā and Vishnu once saw a pillar of fire that seemed to grow from the depths of the earth and to pierce beyond the highest heavens. They longed to learn its depth and height, and agreed that Brahmā should become a swan to fly to the pillar's top, and Vishnu a boar to dig to its root. The swan flew up to the sky, but never reached the pillar's summit. The boar dug through the earth with his tusk, but never found where the pillar began. Brahmā and Vishnu perforce acknowledged their limitations and prayed to the pillar, whereupon Šiva revealed himself, for the pillar was a form he had assumed. Not even the greatest and

wisest of creatures can by their searching find out God. But to the humble-hearted He reveals Himself.

2. Rāvana, the ten-headed giant king of Ceylon, while on his conquering progress through many realms, came to the North of India and saw Kailāsa the silver mountain. Coveting its beauty he determined to uproot and transplant it to his own island. With his ten heads and twenty arms he tried to lift it from the earth, and Kailāsa shook. All the hosts of heaven, and even Umā, were terrified by what seemed to them an awful earthquake. But Śiva simply set his big toe upon the mountain, and lo, Rāvana found himself being crushed to death. Repenting of his folly, Rāvana prayed for mercy, and Śiva not only forgave him but even gave him fresh boons. For God pardons sinners who repent, and gives them blessings which before they did not know.

3. Three Asuras, or supernatural beings, once by doing penance obtained from Śiva three castles, one of gold, one of silver, and one of iron. These castles could fly at the owners' desire, and settle down on towns and villages, destroying many lives. In course of time the Asuras became very proud and ignored Śiva. Determining to punish them, Śiva mounted a chariot whose wheels were the sun and moon and whose seat was the earth. Brahmā was his charioteer, the four Vedas the horses, Mount Meru his bow, the ancient serpent Ādiśesha his bow-string, and Viṣṇu his arrow. At sight of these preparations the gods became conceited, thinking that Śiva could not destroy his enemies without them. Śiva knowing their thoughts simply laughed, and at that laugh the three castles were on the instant reduced to ashes.

### 3 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

Those who forget God in their pride must be punished. When those whom God uses as his instruments begin to think themselves indispensable to him, he shews that his purposes can be fulfilled without them.

4. The gods once began to churn the ocean in the hope of obtaining divine nectar. The mountain Mandāra was their churning-stick, the primeval tortoise the pivot on which the stick rested and turned, and the serpent Vāsuki was the churning-rope. As they churned, at first great and splendid things came up. But suddenly something black rose up and darkened the whole universe. It was a mass of poison, deadly alike to gods and men. In terror of destruction, the gods and demons called on Śiva. He came, drank the poison, and saved them all. That which was enough to destroy the universe could only stain his throat with a bluish colour. That is why Śiva is often called the "poison-necked" or "blue-throated" god. There is a link here, small but real, with the Christian teaching of God as ready to suffer for the sake of humbler beings.





SAMBANDAR  
AND HIS  
HYMNS

# I

## SAMBANDAR

(Tamil: TIRU JÑĀNA SAMBANDAMŪRTI SWĀMI)

IN the first half of the seventh century A.D. the worship of Śiva was at its lowest ebb, overpowered by the Jainism and Buddhism which prevailed throughout the Tamil country. But a few pious Śaivites remained faithful. One of them, whose name means that his heart was laid at Śiva's foot, and who lived in the town in the Tanjore District now known as Shiyāli, prayed to the Śiva worshipped in the Shiyāli temple that he might be given a son who would dispel the godless dark and win men to Lord Śiva again. Sambandar's birth was the answer to that prayer. At the tender age of three, so orthodox Śaivites believe, this child was fed by Śiva's spouse with milk from her divine breast, mingled with divine wisdom, whence he is called in his full name, "The man connected with wisdom divine," Tiru Jñāna Sambandar.

He grew up to be a pilgrim poet, who visited most of the Śaivite shrines with which South India abounds, in each place singing the praise of the Śiva whom there he worshipped. The cause he loved suffered a severe blow when the great king of Madura, with many of his subjects, went over to the Jain religion. The queen-consort and her prime minister (see stanzas 20 and 21) remained faithful to Śaivism, and sent for Sambandar.

The lonely saint faced a vast multitude of Jains in the royal presence, conquered them in argument, and reconverted the king. Eight thousand of the stubborn Jains, with Sambandar's consent, were impaled alive. Later on, after a similar adventure in another of the three great kingdoms of the Tamil country of his time, Sambandar converted to Śaivism a crowd of Buddhist opponents.

This is about all that is known of a man who helped to sing Buddhism right out of Southern India, and who composed the collection of hymns which stands first among the canonical works of Śaivites. Legends make him a wonder-worker, but we must draw our knowledge of the man from his poems themselves. He certainly was skilful in the handling of the many metres in which Tamil poetry is written, and it is not impossible that his productions were as effortless as the stories of him tell. That is their weakness, for there is not very much of heart religion in them. But they seem to have powerfully helped in that process of eliminating Jainism and Buddhism from India of which we know so little, though it was complete enough to be one of the marvels of history. Their author holds the foremost place among the four great 'Śaivite Preceptors' (*Śivāchāryar*), and some call him the incarnation of one of the sons of Śiva.

His date seems to be one of the few clearly established dates in the history of the religion of the country. Stanza 19 shews that he was a contemporary of another great early Śaivite, whose name means "Little Servant of God," and who is known to have fought in a battle which took place in 642 A.D.

1. தோடுடையசெங்கிடையேறியோர் தூவெண்  
மதிசூழ்க்  
காடுடையசுடலைப்பொடிபூசியென் தூள்ளங்கவர்  
கள்வ  
நேடுடையமலரான்முனநாள்பணிநடேதததவருள்  
செப்த  
ஏடுடையபிரமாபுரமேஹியபெம்மானிவனன்றே.
2. உண்ணுமுலையுமையாளாடுமுடலைகியவொருவன்  
பெண்ணுகியபெருமான்மலைதிருமாமணி திகமு  
மண்ணாந்தனவருவித்திரண்மழலைம்முழவதிரு  
மண்ணுமலைதொழுவாவினைவழுவாவன்ன  
மறுமே.

We begin with the first verse which the author composed. According to the legends he uttered it at the age of three, on the banks of the temple tank at Shiyāli (once Bramāpuram), after Śiva's consort had fed him with milk from her own breast. The stanza itself of course contains no allusion to the story, but it is one of the best known verses in the Śaivite hymn-book.

1. His ears are beringed, He rideth the bull;  
 His head is adorned with the crescent moon's ray;  
 White is He with ash from the burning-ground swept,  
 And He is the thief who my heart steals away  
 Great Brahmā enthroned on the lotus' full bloom  
 Erstwhile bowed him down and His glory extolled,  
 And singing received he the grace of our lord  
 Who dwelleth in famèd Bramāpuram old.

---

No pilgrimage in South India is more popular than that to Tiruvannāmalai in North Arcot, the temple by a hill celebrated in many poems. Śaivism has tried to express the existence of the 'eternal feminine' in deity by giving Śiva a lady who not only is His consort, but is actually a part of Him, and is so represented in many images, which show Śiva as masculine on one side and feminine on the other.

2. He is our only Lord, conjoined still  
 To her whose breast no sucking lips have known.  
 They who in Annāmalai's holy hill,  
 Where falling waters noisy chatter down,  
 And the hill glistens gem-like, bow before  
 Our great one who is lord and lady too,  
 Unfailingly for them shall be no more  
 Dread fruit of good and bad deeds they may do.

14 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

3. பறையுமபழிபாவமபடுதுயரம்பலத்திரும்  
பிறையுமபுனலரவும்படுச்சடையம்பெருமானா  
ரறையும்புனல்வருகாவிரியலைசோவடகரைமேல  
நிறையும்புனைமடவர்ப்பயில்நெய்த்தானமென்றே.

One of the first puzzles to a student of Saivism is the way in which each of the numerous shrines seems to be spoken of as if it were Śiva's exclusive abode. The broad river marked on English maps as the Cauvery, but in Tamil called the Kāviri, which brings so much blessing to a large part of South India that the respect in which it is held is not difficult to understand, is fringed throughout its length with shrines which are believed to confer the blessings of Śiva on all who visit them. One of these is 'Neyttānam,' 'Place of Ghee.'

3. So ye but say Neyttānam is the home  
 Of our great Lord who wears in His long hair  
 The crescent moon, the river, and the snake,  
 Neyttānam where chaste maidens gather fair,  
 On the north bank of Kāviri's loud stream,  
 Your vileness, guiltiness, the sin you dread,  
 Your sorrows many, shall be banishèd.

---

This specimen of a hymn connected with Palny in the Madura District alludes (in stanza 5) to the well-known legend which says in the Saivite way that those who love God need not fear death. Mārkandeya was a boy devoted to Śiva, but over his life hung a terrible cloud, for the fates had decreed that he would not live beyond his sixteenth year. As the appointed time drew near his father lived in an agony of dread, but Mārkandeya, free from fear, spent all his time in the worship of Śiva. The god of Death came at last. Regardless of the fact that the boy was at worship he threw over him that noose which pulls out human life from the body. The boy clung to Śiva's lingam with both his hands. From within the lingam Śiva burst forth, kicked the terrible death-god and pierced him with his trident. So Mārkandeya was saved. The scene is sculptured on many temples.

## 16 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

4. வேதமோதிவண்ணூல்பூண்டிவள்ளையெரு  
தேநிப  
பூதஞ்சூழப்பொனியவருவாபுனியிதூரிதோலார  
நாதாவென வந்க்காவெனவுநமபாவெனநின்று  
பாதாதொழுவர்பாவந்தீபபாபழனகராரே.

5. கணமேற்கண்ணுஞ்சடைமேற்பிறையுமடையா  
ர்காலனைப  
புண்ணுதுதிரமெதிராக்ரேடப்பொன்றபடுநந  
தாளா  
வெண்ணுதுதைத்தவெந்தைபெருமானிமவான  
மக்களாடும்  
பண்ணுர்களிவண்டறைபூஞ்சீசாலீப்பழனநக  
ராரே.

6. கற்றூங்கெரியோமபிக்கலியைவாராமே  
செற்றூர்வாழ்தில்லைச்சிற்றம்பலமேய  
முற்றுவெண்டிங்கண்முதல்வன்பாதமே  
பற்றுங்குறைப்பற்றுபாவமே.

4. Holy Vedas chanting,  
 Sacred thread He wears ;  
 All His hosts surround Him  
 Whom the white bull bears  
 Cometh He in splendour,  
 Tiger-skin attired.  
 ' Lord, our naked beggar  
 Above all desired,  
 Cry ye in your worship,  
 At His feet appeal.  
 He who dwells in Palny  
 All your sin will heal.

5. Three eyes hath His forehead,  
 Fair moon crowns His hair ;  
 When Death sought a victim,  
 Siva's foot crashed there ;  
 Gory streams of blood flowed,  
 Death it was that died,  
 Such is He, our Father,  
 Umā at His side ;  
 Dwells He aye in Palny,  
 Where bees hum around  
 Drunk with honeyed sweetness,  
 Till its groves resound.

---

A multitude of hymns chant the glory of Chidambaram, ancient Tillai, holiest of all the Saivite shrines. Pious Saivites have for it a feeling not unlike the Jews' feeling for Jerusalem. The tending of the sacrificial fire comes down from pre-historic times, being firmly established when the earliest hymns of the Rig Veda were composed.

6. Tending as taught of old the sacrificial fire,  
 At Tillai Brahmans pure drive out misfortune dire.  
 There dwells the First of all, moon-crowned, and  
 those who cleave  
 For ever to His foot, no cleaving sin will grieve.

## 18 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIWHITE SAINTS

7. மறையானே மாசிலா ப்புன்சடை மல்குவென்  
மிரையானைப் பெண்ணெடுடானுகியபெமமானே  
மிரையானே யோகொள்கச்சித்திருவேகம்பத்  
துவைவானையல்லதுள்காதெனதுள்ளமே.

8. நன்றுடையானைத்தீயதில்லானைநரவென்டே  
கீருன்றுடையானையுமையொருபாகமுடையானைச்  
சென்றடையாததிருவுடையானைச்சிராப்பள்ளிக  
குன்றுடையானைக்குறவென்னுள்ளாக்குளிரும்பே.

9. குற்றநிகுணங்கணீகூடலாலவாயிலாய்  
சுற்றநிபிரானுநிதொடர்ந்திலங்குசோதிநி  
கற்றநாற்கருச்துநியருததமினபமென்றிவை  
முற்றுப்பிகழ்ந்தமுன்னுரைப்பதென்முகம்மனே.

Conjeeveram, the ancient Tamil name of which is given in this stanza, though more famous as a Vaishnavaite than as a Saivite shrine, offers in its temples a remarkable compendium of the religious history of South India. See the article 'Kāñchipuram' in Dr. Hastings' 'Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics.'

7. He is the pith of holy writ;  
 And in the tangle of His hair  
 The spotless crescent's ray is lit;  
 He is both Lord and Lady fair.  
 He our great sovereign doth abide  
 In Kachchi Ehambam's fair town.  
 My mind can think of naught beside,  
 Naught beside Him, and Him alone

---

The next two stanzas, taken from two separate hymns associated with the great cities of Trichinopoly and Madura, both sacred places of Saivism, are set side by side in order to bring out a point which even the most sympathetic student may not ignore. Siva is commonly spoken of as all good, as in stanza 8, and yet not infrequently He includes, as in stanza 9, both good and its opposite. The pantheistic tendency even in these hymns causes God to be sometimes depicted as so all-embracing as to include evil as well as good.

8. All goodness hath He and no shadow of ill.  
 Grey-white is His bull, fair Umā shares His form.  
 His wealth is past searching. Chirāpalli's hill  
 Is His, whom to praise keeps my heart ever warm.

9. Thou art right and Thou art wrong,  
 Lord of holy Ālavāy;  
 Kinsman, I to Thee belong;  
 Never fades Thy light away.  
 Thou the sense of books divine,  
 Thou my wealth, my bliss art Thou,  
 Thou my all, and in Thy shrine  
 With what praises can I bow?

10. ஆதியாயநான்முகதுமாலுமறிவரிய  
சோதியானே நீதியில்லேன் சொல்துவதுன்  
றிறமே  
ஒதிநாள்முன்கீனபேத்துமெனகீனவினையவலம்  
வாதியாமே வந்துநல்காய் வளிவலமேயவனே.

No one can know Śiva unless He chooses to reveal Himself. This thought constantly recurs with great emphasis. Its favourite expression is in the first legend of the four told in our introduction. Hymn singers are fond of contrasting with the vain search of Brahmā and Vishnu the revelation of Himself which Śiva has graciously granted to them. Compare stanzas 25 and 48.

10. Thou Light whom Brahmā, being's fount, and  
 Vishnu could not see,  
 No righteousness have I, I only speak in praise of  
 Thee.  
 Come, Valivalam's Lord, let no dark fruit of deeds,  
 I pray,  
 Torment Thy slave who with his song extols Thee  
 day by day.

---

Astrology plays a large part in popular Hinduism, and the influence of baleful or auspicious stars must be reckoned with in daily life. Most baleful of all is the influence of the eclipse, which is caused by two dragons Rāhu and Kētu which swallow the moon or the sun. This stanza enumerates the nine planets, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rāhu and Kētu, and says that to the singer, who has Śiva in his heart, all of them, even the dragons of eclipse, are auspicious. It is a powerful and characteristically Hindu way of saying that all things work together for good to those who love God.

The reference to the bamboo constantly recurs in descriptions of ladies' beauty. Everyone who has seen a feathery clump of bamboo trees waving in the breeze will understand it as a symbol of delicate grace.

The vina is the most delicate and beautiful instrument played in South India.

## 22 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

11. வேடுறதோனிபங்கன்விடமுண்டகண்டன்மிக  
 ஸ்லவினைதடவி  
 மாசறுதிங்களகங்கமுடிமேலணிந்தெனுள  
 மேபுகுந்தவதன  
 னுயிருதிங்கள்செவவாய்புதனவியாழமவென்னி  
 சனிபாம்பிரண்டமுடனே  
 யாசறுநல்லால்லவவைநல்லால்லவதியாரவர்க்கு  
 மிகவே.

12. மந்திரமாவதுநீறுவானவாமேலதுநீறு  
 சந்தரமாவதுநீறுதுதிக்கப்படுவதுநீறு  
 தந்திரமாவதுநீறுசமயத்திலுள்ளதுநீறு  
 செகதுவர்வாயுமைபங்கன்றிருவால்வாயான்  
 றிருநீரே.

11. She shares His form whose shoulders' curve vies  
with the bamboo's grace.

His throat the poison drank, He touched the vīpa  
into tune.

The lustrous moon and Ganges crown His hair, and  
He a place

Hath made Himself within my heart. Where-  
fore let shine the moon

Or sun or any star of good or ill, or serpents twain.  
For Śiva's slave all are benign, all work for him  
great gain.

---

White ash from burnt cow-dung must be worn by  
all true Śaivites. Every day the worshipper, facing  
north-east and crying 'Śiva, Śiva,' must dip in the ash  
the fingers of his right hand and draw the three middle  
fingers from left to right along his forehead, so leaving  
three horizontal white lines. The ceremonial side of  
Śaivism is so prominent that this one stanza must be  
given, a specimen of many extolling the virtues and  
potencies of the ash.

The Tantras are works inculcating ceremonies, also  
magic performances and mystic rites. Some of these  
are of an immoral nature.

12. The sacred ash has mystic power,  
'Tis worn by dwellers in the sky.

The ash bestows true loveliness.

Praise of the ash ascends on high.

The ash shows what the Tantras mean,

And true religion's essence tells,

The ash of Him of Ālavāy,

In whom red-lippèd Umā dwells.

13. காதலாகிக்கசிந்துகண்ணோமலகி  
யோதுவார்த்தமென்னெறிக்கும்பொது  
வேதநான்கினுமெய்ப்பொருளாவது  
நாதனும் நமச்சிவரயவே.

14. சித்தந்தெனிலீர்கா, எத்தனாருரைப்  
பத்திமஸர்தாவ, முத்தியாகுமே.

15. பிரஸியறுபபீர்கா, எறவனாருரை  
மறவாதேத்துமின், றறவியாகுமே.

16. துன்பந்துடைப்பீர்கா, என்பனணியாரூர்  
கண்பொன்மஸர்தாவ, வின்பமாகுமே.

Equally important with the wearing of the sacred ash is the constant repetition of the five syllables, or panchākshara, 'Namaśivāya.' This, which means literally 'a bow to Śiva,' is the chief mantra or mystic utterance of Śaivism. In Śaivite catechisms a whole chapter is devoted to its uses.

13. Those who repeat it while love's tears outpour,  
 It gives them life, and guides them in the way.  
 'Tis the true substance of the Vedas four,  
 The Lord's great name, wherefore 'Hail Śiva,'  
 say.

---

The next three stanzas are from a hymn written in a very attractive short-lined metre, and promise light, freedom from rebirth, and bliss, through devotion to Śiva at Ārūr (now Tiruvallūr in the Tanjore District).

14. For the Father in Ārūr  
 Sprinkle ye the blooms of love;  
 In your heart will dawn true light,  
 Every bondage will remove.

15. Him the holy in Ārūr  
 Ne'er forget to laud and praise;  
 Bonds of birth will severed be,  
 Left behind all worldly ways.

16. In Ārūr, our loved one's gem,  
 Scatter golden blossoms fair.  
 Sorrow ye shall wipe away,  
 Yours be bliss beyond compare.

17. சடையாபெனுமால்சரணீபெனுமால்  
 விடையாபெனுமால்வெருவாவிழுமால்  
 மடையார்குவளைமமலருமமருக  
 அடையாய்தகுமோவிவஞ்சுமெலிவே.

18. புத்தரோடுபொறியில்சமனுமபுறங்கூறுவின்றில்லா  
 வொத்தசொல்லவுலகமபலிதோந்தெனதுள்ள  
 நகவர்கள்வன்  
 மத்தயாணமறுகவவுரிபோர்த்ததோர்மாயம்மி  
 துவென்னப்  
 பிதர்போலும்பிரமாபுரமேவியபெம்மானிவ  
 னன்றே.

Associated with the hymn from which our next verse is taken is a story of the author, Sambandar, helping a sorrowing woman by raising to life the man she loved, who had been killed by snake-bite. The hymn makes no allusion to such a miracle, but it does give an example of intercession on behalf of another, an element which is somewhat rare in these devotional books.

17. Prostrate with fear at Thy feet she cries 'Lord with matted hair, my Refuge, Rider of the bull! Lord of Maruhal where fresh water-lilies bloom, is it right to leave her in this anguish of heart?

---

Our present writer's poems contain such frequent denunciations of Buddhism or Jainism that it is clear that they were written at a time when the struggle between Hinduism and these other religions was at its height. Buddhism and Jainism are scarcely known in South India to-day, though at one time they were supreme. It is probable that these songs helped not a little to drive them out of the country.

18. Those Buddhists and mad Jains may slander speak.  
 Such speech befits the wand'lers from the way.  
 But He who came to earth and begged for alms,  
 He is the thief who stole my heart away.  
 The raging elephant charged down at Him.  
 O marvel! He but took and wore its hide;  
 Madman men think Him, but He is the Lord  
 Who in great Bramāpuram doth-abide.

19. பைங்கோட்டுமலர்ப்புன்னோப்பறவைகாள்பய  
 ப்பூரச்  
 சங்காட்டந்தவிர்த்தெனனோத்தவிராநோய்  
 தகதானே  
 செங்காட்டங்குடமேயசிறுத்தொண்டன்பளி  
 செய்ய  
 வெங்காட்டுளன்லேந்திவினையாடும்பெருமானே.

The "Little Servant of God" mentioned in the next verse is one of the 63 canonized saints of Saivism. According to the collection of legends known as the Periya Purānam, which is a Tamil Saivite classic, he fought at the battle of Vādāpi, the modern Badāmi, which took place in 642 A.D. There are other indications which strengthen the view that these hymns date from the seventh century A.D.

In the first three lines of the verse Śiva is conceived as a lover, and the devotee as the woman whom He loves. In India the pain of absence from a lover is supposed to cause spots to appear on the skin of the woman who loves.

19. Birds in the flowering green-branched pūnnai tree,  
 Love writeth clear its marks on me, for He  
 Who cured my grief, yet left unending pain.  
 Senkāttankuḍi is His holy fane,  
 And there His "Little Servant" dwells, who now  
 And ever doth before Lord Śiva bow.  
 There in the burning-ground, with fire in hand,  
 Sporteth unceasingly our Master grand.

---

Another possible indication of date occurs in the next two verses, given in English prose because the Tamil names will not fit into English metres. The Mangaiyarkkārasi here mentioned was the wife of a king of Madura, Kūn Pāndiyan, known to history. According to the above-mentioned collection of stories, this king became a Jain. Then the queen and the prime minister named in our poem sent for Sambandar, our author, through whose efforts the king was re-converted, and all Jain teachers were executed by impaling. Unfortunately the date of Kūn Pāndiyan cannot at present be accurately determined. An able discussion of it can be seen in "The Tamilian Antiquary, No. 3."

20. மங்கயர்க்கரசிவளவர்கோன்பாலைவரிவளைக்  
கைமடமானி  
பங்கயச்செல்விபாண்டிமாதேவிபணிசெய்துநா  
டொறும்பரவப்  
பொங்கழுருவன்பூதநாயகனுல்வேதமும்பொ  
ருள்கருமருளி  
பங்கயற்கண்ணிதன்குமுமர்ந்தவாலவாயா  
வதுமிதுவே.

21. வெற்றவேயடியாரடிமிசைனிமூம்விருப்பினன்  
வெள்ளைநீரணியுங்  
கொற்றவன்றனக்குமங்கிரியாயகுலச்சிறைகுலாவி  
நின்றேற்கு  
மொற்றவெள்விடையதும்பரார்தலைவதுலகினி  
வியற்கையாழ்விந்திட்  
டற்றவர்க்கற்றகிவதுறகின்றவாலவாயாவது  
மிதுவே.

The explanation of the term 'Fish-eyed maid,' which sounds curiously in English ears, is that in Madura Siva's consort is called Minākshī, *i.e.* fish-eyed. The suggestion of the epithet, frequently applied to beautiful women, is that the motion of their eyes resembles the beautiful motion of a fish in water.

20. This is Ālavāy, where dwells the flame-formed lord of hosts, giver of the four Vedas and their meaning, with the fair fish-eyed maid. Here, reigning like the goddess of good fortune, Mangaiyarkkārasi the Chōla king's daughter, brace-letted chaste Pāndīyan queen, daily serves and praises God.

---

The poem from which 20 and 21 are taken consists of stanzas like these alternately praising the queen and the king's minister, the last verse praising them both together.

21. This is Ālavāy, Siva's abode. To those who forsake the world He reveals Himself as world-forsaking too. Head of the heavenly ones, He rides the one white bull. Praised is He by Kulachchīrai, minister of that monarch who wears white ash, and loves to lay himself bare at the feet of Siva's slaves.

---

Once, says a story, when Sambandar was about to contend with the Jains, the queen feared the consequences which might befall him, but he assured her in this verse that he could dare all when his God of Madura was on his side.

## 32 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

22. மாணினேர்விழிமாதராயவழுதிக்குமாபெருந  
தேவிகேள  
பானல்வாரொருபாலனீங்கிவனென்றுநீபரிவெப்  
திடே  
லாஜீமாமலையாதியாயவிடங்களிற்பலவல்லல்லேச  
ரீனர்கட்டகெனிதேனலேன் திருவாலவாயரனிற்கவே.

23. செய்யனே திருவாலவாயமேஷ்ய  
வையனேயஞ்சலென் றருள் செய்யெனைப  
பொய்யராமமணாகொஞ்சஞ்சடா  
பையவேசென் றபாஞ்சியற்காகவே.

24. வாழ்க வங்தனர் வானவ ராணினம்  
வீழ்க தண்புனல் வேநதது மோங்குக  
ஆழ்க தீயதெல் லாமர ஞமமே  
குழ்க வையக முநதுயா தீரகவே.

22. O fair one with the deer's glance meek,  
 Pāndya's great queen, think not of me  
 As of some sucking infant weak,  
 Because such wicked foes there be.  
 If only Hara by me stand,  
 Stronger am I than all their band

---

The story here is that the Jains had set fire to Sambandar's house. He prayed in this stanza that the fire, transformed into a fever, might go to the Pāndyan king, then a Jain. It did so, and the king was converted.

23 O Thou whose form is fiery red,  
 In holy Ālavāy, our Sire,  
 In grace deliver me from dread  
 False Jains have lit for me a fire :  
 O, let it to the Pāndyan ruler go,  
 That he the torture of slow flame may know.

---

Our specimens of Sambandar's poetry may end with a verse which is a kind of benediction, often set as an auspicious word on the front page of a book.

24 Blest be the Brāhmans pure, the heavenly ones,  
 and kine  
 Cool rain fall on the earth ! May the king's glory  
 shine !  
 Perish all forms of ill ! Let Hara's name resound !  
 May sorrow pass away, from earth's remotest  
 bound.



By permission of the Director

PARK WA

APPARSWAMI  
AND HIS  
HYMNS

} II.

## TIRUNAVUKKARASU SWĀMI

(More commonly referred to as APPARSWĀMI)

SAMBANDAR, whose works we have been studying, had a friend older than himself, named Appar, or Tirunāvukkarasu, belonging to that Vellāla caste which to this day makes a very solid element in the population of the Tamil country. Left an orphan at an early age, Appar was brought up by a loving elder sister as a pious devotee of Śiva. Great was the sister's grief when Appar forsook the faith of his fathers and became a religious teacher among the Jains. But her earnest prayers at last prevailed, and Appar not only came back to Śaivism himself, but was the means of reconverting to Śaivism the king of his country. His full name was Tirunāvukkarasu, or 'King of the Tongue', but his young friend Sambandar called him Appar, or Father, and the name stuck to him. He too wandered throughout the Tamil country, sometimes alone, sometimes in company with Sambandar, singing his way from shrine to shrine. Pictures show him holding in his hand a little tool for scraping grass, with which he used to scrape the stones of the temple courts. The Jains persecuted him, and many stories tell of his miraculous escapes from their hands.

His hymns show a truly religious nature, with a deep-rooted sense of sin and need, and an exalted joy in God. There is real critical acumen in the old epigram which represents Śiva as appraising the three great writers of the Dēvāram, or Śaivite hymn-book :— “ Sambandar praised himself; Sundarar praised Me for pelf; My Appar praised Me Myself.”

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38 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

1

25. திருவினூன்கொழுநாருந்திசைமுகமுடையக  
கேவும்  
இருவருமேழுநதும்விழுந்துமினையழிகாணமா  
ட்டார்  
இருவனேயெம்பிராணேயுன்றிருப்பாதங்காண்பான்  
அருவனேயருளவேண்டுமதிகைவீரடடனுரே.

26. கடவுநதிகிரிகடவாதொழியக்கயிலையுற்றுன்  
படவுநதிருவிரரொன்றுவுத்தரய்ப்பனிமால்  
வரைபோல்  
இடபம்பொறித்தென்னையேன்றுகொள்ளா  
யிருஞ்சோலைதிங்கள்  
நடவுங்கடந்தையுட்டேங்காணமாடத்தெந்தத்  
துவனே.

God, the essentially unsearchable, in His grace will reveal Himself to men. (See the first of the legends told in the Introduction.) Athihai Virattānam, in the South Arcot District, is the shrine here commemorated.

25. Vishnu, spouse of Lakshmi, and four-ways-facing Brahm,

Searched the heights and depths, but Thy feet could never see.

Yet, O only Lord, who in Athihai dost dwell,  
Formless, in Thy grace, grant the sight of them to me.

---

The notable thing about our next verse is not so much the legend of the crushing of Rāvana, who tried to storm the mountain Kailāsa, where Śiva had His heaven, but rather the thought of the devotee being stamped as the property of his god, a thought which recurs in other hymns. According to tradition Appar-swāmi did receive the Hindu equivalent of St. Francis' stigmata, the mark of Śiva's bull as if branded on his body. We cannot help recalling St. Paul's expression in Galatians vi. 17

26. All other worlds his sceptre swayed,

But when Kailāsa he would rule

Thy crushing foot presumption paid.

O stamp me with Thy sacred bull,  
White as Himāl'ya's snowy hill.

Accept me, O our truth divine,  
There where the moon outsoareth still  
Groves of Tūṅgānaimādam's shrine.

27. வடிவேறு திரிசூலந் தோன்றுந்தோன்றும்  
 வளாசடைமேவிள்ளமதியந் தோன்றுந்தோன்றுங்  
 கடியேறுகமழ் கொன்றைக்கண்ணி தோன்றுக  
 காதில்வென்குழைதோடுகலந்துதோன்றும்  
 இடியேறுகளிற்றுரிவைப் போர்வைதோன்றும்  
 எழிறிகழுந்திருமுடியுமிலங்கிததோன்றும்  
 பொடியேறுதிருமேவி பொலிந்துதோன்றும்  
 பொழிறிகழும் பூவணத்தெம் புனிதனுர்க்கே.

28. ஒருவனுயுலகேத்த சின்றநாளோ  
 வோருருவேழுவருவமானநாளோ  
 கருவனுயக்காமலைனமுன் காய்ந்தநாளோ  
 காமலையுங்கண்ணழலால்விழித்தநாளோ  
 மருவனுய் மண்ணுமவின்னுந்தெரிததநாளோ  
 மாண்மறிக்கையேந்தியோ மாதோர்பாகந்  
 திருவினுற் சோவதறகு முன்னேபின்னே  
 திருவரூபாகோயிலாககொண்டநாளே

Here is the divine vision as the enraptured Saivite sees it.

27. See, there His bright trident appears to me ;  
 See, there is the moon in His tangled hair ;  
 His garland of flowers from the kondai tree,  
 And the ear-ring white in His either ear,  
 The cloak that He tore from the elephant wild,  
 His glittering crown and His body's sheen.  
 Ash-smeared, He is ever the undefiled,  
 In Pūvanam circled by groves all green.

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The singer, standing at the shrine of Tiruvalur (Ārūr) in the Tanjore district, muses over the ancient connection of his lord with the holy place, suggesting that it began before the creation, before Śiva wrought his greatest marvels, perhaps even before the one Supreme, Īśvara, expanded into the triad Brahmā, Vishnu and Rudra.

28. When was that ancient day our Lord  
 Chose Ārūr should His temple be ?  
 Was't when He stood 'mid praising worlds  
 Alone, or when the One grew three ?  
 Was't when in wrath He burned up Death,  
 Or turned on Lust His flaming eye ?  
 Or when creative, immanent,  
 He called to being earth and sky ?  
 Was't when, his young deer in his hand,  
 He came, with Umā as His part ?  
 Or ere He joined that lady fair  
 Took He our Ārūr to His heart ?

29. நீதியால்வாழுமாட்டேனித்தலுநதூயேனல்லேன்  
ஒதியுமுணரமாட்டேலூண்ணீயுள்ளவைக்கமாட்டேன்  
சோதியேசுடரேயுனறந்துமலர்ப்பாதங்காண்பான்  
ஆதியேயலீக்துபோனேன திகைவீரட்டஞாரே.

30. தெருஞுமாதெருளமாட்டேன் நீவினைச்சுற்ற  
வெமன்தும  
பொருஞுளீயமுந்திநாஞும்போவதோநெறி  
யுங்காணேன்  
இருஞுமாமனிகண்டாநினனினையடியிரண்டுங  
காணபான்  
அருஞுமாறருளவேண்டுமதிகைவீரட்டஞாரே

31. உறுகயிறாசல்போலவொன்றுவிட்டொன்றுபறறி  
மறுகயிறாசல்போலவங்துவநதுவுநெஞ்சம்  
பெறுகயிறாசல்போலபமிறைபுல்குசடையாய்  
பாதத்  
தறுகயிறாசலாணேன திகைவீரட்டஞாரே.

It is often said, not without truth, that Hinduism fails to create a strong sense of sin. But there are great exceptions : witness the following verses, samples of many, taken from a hymn which trembles with feeling. The author is sunk in sin. Or he has been like a swing, flying first toward evil and then towards God, but now, joy ! the cord has snapped, and he lies fixed at his Lord's feet. Yet the old mood returns ; his soul is bound and drugged with sleep, and life has no joys to offer unless God will save.

### THE SOUL'S BITTER CRY

29. In right I have no power to live,  
     Day after day I'm stained with sin ;  
     I read, but do not understand ;  
     I hold Thee not my heart within  
     O light, O flame, O first of all,  
     I wandered far that I might see,  
     Athihai Virattānam's Lord,  
     Thy flower-like feet of purity

30. Daily I'm sunk in worldly sin ;  
     Naught know I as I ought to know ;  
     Absorbed in vice as 'twere my kin,  
     I see no path in which to go.  
     O Thou with throat one darkling gem,  
     Gracious, such grace to me accord,  
     That I may see Thy beauteous feet,  
     Athihai Virattānam's Lord.

31. My fickle heart one love forsakes,  
     And forthwith to some other clings ;  
     Swiftly to some one thing it sways,  
     And e'en as swiftly backward swings.  
     O Thou with crescent in Thy hair,  
     Athihai Virattānam's Lord,  
     Fixed at Thy feet henceforth I lie,  
     For Thou hast broken my soul's cord.

## 44 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

32. கழித்திலேனகாமவங்நோய்காதன்மையென்  
நும்பாசம்  
ஒழித்திலேலூன்கணேக்கியுணரவெனுமிமைதிற  
நது  
ஷ்மிததிலேன்வெளி<sup>ந</sup>தோன்றவினைபெனுஞ்சர  
கருக்கொண்டேன்  
அழித்திலேனயர்ததுபபோனேனதிகைவீர  
ட்டஞ்சீர.

33. ஓம்பினேன்கூட்டடவாளாவுள்ளத்தோர்கொடு  
மைவைத்துக்  
காம்கிலாழுமூபோலக்கருதிற்றேமுகக்கமா  
ட்டேன்  
பாம்பின்வாய்த்தேரபோலபபலங்கினக்கின்  
நேளை  
யோம்பிக்கியுய்யக்கொள்ளாயொற்றியுருடைய  
கோவே.

34. மனமெனுநதோனிபற்றிமதியெனுங்கோலையூன் றிச்  
சினமெனுஞ்சரக்கையேற்றிச்செறிகடலோடும்  
போது  
மதனெனும்பானறதாககிமறியும்போதறிய  
வொன்னு  
துளையுனுமுனர்வைதல்காயொற்றியுருடைய  
கோவே.

32. The bond of lust I cannot break ;  
 Desire's fierce torture will not die ;  
 My soul I cannot stab awake  
 To scan my flesh with seeing eye.  
 I bear upon me load of deeds,  
 Load such as I can ne'er lay down.  
 Athihai Virattānam's Lord,  
 Weary of joyless life I've grown.

---

Fresh pictures in another hymn set forth his sad condition. God's vessels are full of the sweetness of grace, but his spoon has no handle. He feels himself in the deadly grasp of fate, like the frog in the cruel mouth of the snake which is slowly swallowing it down. Or he is on a raft on the sea of life, wrecked on the rock of lust

33. While violence is in my heart,  
 Care of my body cage is vain.  
 My spoon no handle hath when I  
 Thy honey's grace to drink am fain  
 As in the serpent's mouth the frog,  
 Caught in life's terrors, wild I rave  
 Thou, King of holy Ottiyūr,  
 Wilt Thou not care for me and save ?

34. When on life's angry waves I launch,  
 My heart's the raft I take to me,  
 My mind's the pole I lean upon,  
 Vexation's freight I bear to sea.  
 I strike upon the rock of lust !  
 O then, though witless quite I be,  
 Grant, King of holy Ottiyūr,  
 Such wisdom that I think of Thee.

35. குலம்பொல்லேன் குணம்பொல்லேன் குநியும்பொல்லேன்

குற்றமேபெரிதுடையேன்கோலமாய  
நலம்பொல்லேனும்பொல்லேன ஞானியல்லே  
ஙல்லாரோடிசைந்திலேனடுவேனின்ற  
விலங்கலேன்விலங்கலாதொழிந்தெனல்லேன்  
வெறுபபனவுமிகப் பெரிதுமிபெசவல்லேன்  
இலம்பொல்லேனிரப்பதல்லால் சபமாட்டே  
னெனசெய்வான்றேன் நினே னேழழேனே

36. நில்லாதநீசடைமேனிறமித்தானை

வினையாவென்னெஞ்சைநினைவிததானைக்  
கல்லாதனவெல்லாங்கற்பித்தானைக  
கானுதனவெல்லாங்க காடடினுனைச  
சொல்லாதனவெல்லாஞ்ச சொல்வியென்னைத்  
தொடர்ந்திங் கடியேனையாளாக்கொண்டு  
பொல்லாவெனானுய்தீத்த புனிதன்றனைப்  
புன்னியனிப்பூநதுருத்திக்கணடேனே.

It would be hard to find a more comprehensive confession of sin than our next stanza from another hymn.

35 Evil, all evil, my race, evil my qualities all,  
 Great am I only in sin, evil is even my good.  
 Evil my innermost self, foolish, avoiding the pure,  
 Beast am I not, yet the ways of the beast I can  
 never forsake  
 I can exhort with strong words, telling men what  
 they should hate,  
 Yet can I never give gifts, only to beg them I know.  
 Ah ! wretched man that I am, whereunto came I to  
 birth ?

---

We give next a series of stanzas in various metres from different hymns, in which the saint utters in song some of the joy which his religion has brought him. God has revealed mysteries to him which tongue cannot tell, and dwells in his life's innermost places. God is to him the fabled katpaha tree, supplying his every need. God is his all in all, and His presence is sweeter than melody or evening moonlight.

36. The moving water He made stand unmoving in  
 His hair ;  
 And He my thoughtless heart hath fixed in  
 thought of Him alone ;  
 He taught me that which none can learn, what  
 none can see laid bare,  
 What tongue tells not He told ; me He pursued  
 and made His own.  
 The spoilless pure, the holy One, my fell  
 disease He healed,  
 And in Pūnturutti to me, e'en me, Himself  
 revealed.

48 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

37. திருவேயென் செல்வமேதேனேவானேர்  
 செழுஞ்சிடரே செழுஞ்சிடர்நற்சோதிமிக்க  
 உருவேயென் னுறவே யென் னுரேனேயுனி  
 அுயள்ளமேயுள்ளத்தினுள்ளேநின்ற  
 கருவேயென் கற்பக்கீம கண்ணே கண்ணிற்  
 கருமணியே மணியாடுபாவாய்காவாய்  
 அருவாயவல்வினைநோயடையாவன்ன  
 மாவடுதன்டுறையுதையுமமர்ரேரே

38. அப்பனீ யம்மைநீ யையதுநீ  
 யன்புடைய மாமனுமாமியுநீ  
 ஒப்புடையமாதருமெரன்பொருஞ்சீ  
 யொருகுலமுஞ்சற்றமுமோருகுஞ்சீ  
 தூய்பபனவுமுய்ப்பனவுஞ்சே தாற்றுவாய்சீ  
 துனையாயென்னெனஞ்சநதுறபயிப்பாய்சீ  
 இப்பொன்னீ யிம்மணிநீ யிம்முததுநீ  
 பின்றவனீயே தூர்த்தசெல்வனீயே.

39. மாசில் வீணையு மாலை மதியமும்  
 வீச தென்றலும் வீக்கிளவேனிலு  
 முச வண்டறை பொய்க்கையும் போன்றதே  
 சச னெந்தை பினையடி நீழலே.

37 O wealth, my treasure, sweetness, lustre fair of  
 heavenly hosts,  
 Of lustre glory that excels, embodied One, my  
 kin.  
 My flesh, yea heart within my flesh, image within  
 my heart,  
 My all-bestowing tree, my eye, pupil my eye  
 within,  
 Picture seen in that pupil, lord of Āḍuturai cool,  
 Immortals' king, keep far from me strong pain  
 of fruits of sin.

38. Thou to me art parents, Lord,  
 Thou all kinsmen that I need,  
 Thou to me art loved ones fair,  
 Thou art treasure rich indeed.  
 Family, friends, home art Thou,  
 Life and joy I draw from Thee,  
 False world's good by Thee I leave,  
 Gold, pearl, wealth art Thou to me.

39. As the vīna's pure sound, as the moonlight at  
 even,  
 As the south wind's soft breath, as the spring's  
 growing heat,  
 As the pool hovered over by whispering bees,  
 So sweet is the shade at our Father-Lord's feet.

50 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

40. நாமார்க்குங் குழியல்லோஶமனை யஞ்சோ  
 ரகத்திலிடர்ப்படோ நடலையில்லோ  
 மேமாப்போம்பினியறியோம் பணிவோமல்லோ  
 மின்பமே யெநாஞ்சுநுனைபமில்லை  
 தாமார்க்குங் குழியல்லாத் தன்மையான  
 சங்கரனற் சங்கவெண்குழமூயோர் காதிற்  
 கோமாற்கே நாமென்று மீளாவாளாய்க்  
 கொய்ம்மலர்ச்சேவடியினையே குறுகின்றோ.

41. சங்கங்திபதுமனிதி யிரண்டுந்தகது  
 தரணியெருவானுளக்தருவரே து  
 மங்குவாரவர்செல்வமதிப்போமல்லோ  
 மாதேவாக்கேகாரதால்லராகில்  
 அங்கமொங்குறைந்தமுகுதொழுநோயரா  
 யாவரித்துத்தின்றுமுலும்புலையரே துங்  
 கங்கைவர்ச்சடைக்கராநதாக கங்பாகி  
 வலவர்கண்ணர்நாம்வணக்குங்கடவுளாரே.

40. No man holds sway o'er us,  
 Nor death nor hell fear we ;  
 No tremblings, griefs of mind,  
 No pains nor cringings see.  
 Joy, day by day, unchanged  
 Is ours, for we are His,  
 His ever, who doth reign,  
 Our Śaṅkara, in bliss.  
 Here to His feet we've come,  
 Feet as plucked flow'rets fair ,  
 See how His ears divine  
 Ring and white couch-shell wear.

41. Though they give me the jewels from Indra's  
 abode,  
 Though they grant me dominion o'er earth, yea  
 o'er heaven,  
 If they be not the friends of our lord Mahādēv,  
 What care I for wealth by such ruined hands  
 giv'n ?  
 But if they love Śiva, who hides in His hair  
 The river of Ganga, then whoe'er they be,  
 Foul lepers, or outcastes, yea slayers of kine,  
 To them is my homage, gods are they to me.

---

Often the Hindu devotee asks and re-asks the fundamental question 'Who am I?', coming to the saddest of conclusions, but setting against the background of his delusive life of self the great reality of God, to worship whom is to find release from the prison-house of personality.

52 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

42. தந்தையாதாயாருடன் பிறந்தார்  
 தாரமார் புத்திரரார்தாந்தாமாரே  
 வந்தவாறெறங்கனேபோமாறேதோ  
 மாயமாமிதற்கேது மகிழுவேண்டா  
 சிந்தையீருமக்கொன்று சொல்லக்கேண்மின்  
 றிகழ்மதியும்வாளரவுந்தினைக்குஞ்சென்னி  
 எந்தையாதிருநாமநமச்சிவாய  
 வென்றெழழுவர்க்கிருவிசுமபிலிருக்கலாமே.

43. தலையேநிவணங்காய்—தலை—மாலைதலைக்கணிநது  
 தலையாலேபலிதேருந்தலைவனைத்-தலையேநிவணங்  
 காய்

44. கண்காள் காண்மின்களோ-கட-னஞ்சுகண்டக  
 ணாடன் றன்னை  
 யெண்டோள் வீசினின்றும் பிரான் றன்னைக்க-க  
 ண்காள் காண்மின்களோ.

42. Thy father, mother, brethren, wife,  
 Ask thyself who are they?  
 Thy children; yea, thy very self,  
 Who art thou, canst thou say?  
 How cam'st thou here, how wilt depart?  
 Love not this world unreal.  
 Ye anxious souls, this lesson learn,  
 To one pure name appeal.  
 Our father He, crowned with the moon  
 And snake. Who Him adore,  
 Prone lying, with "Hail Śiva, hail,"  
 In heav'n live evermore.

---

Our next hymn with the short-lined verses (nos. 43 to 48) is a kind of Śaivite consecration hymn, mentioning successively various parts of the body—head, eyes, ears—to be given to the worship of Śiva. Verse 46 must sound sadly to a Śaivite, for it is frequently sung in the ears of the dying, as a plaintive appeal to think of God. Verse 47 rises far above the usual ideas of future absorption to the thought of a blissful state of communion with and praise of God.

43. Head of mine, bow to Him,  
 True Head, skull garlanded,  
 A skull was His strange begging-bowl,  
 Bow low to Him, my head.

44. Eyes of mine, gaze on Him  
 Who drank the dark sea's bane.  
 Eight arms He brandishes in dance,  
 At Him agaze remain.

54 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

45. செங்காள் கேண்மின்களோ-கிவ-னெம்மிறை செ  
ம்பவள  
மெரிபோன் மேனிப்பிரான் றிறமெப்போதுஞ்-  
செங்காள்கேண்மின்களோ,

46. உறரூராருளரோ-உயிர்-கொண்டுபோம்பொழுது  
குற்றுலத்துறை கூத்தனல்லானமக் குறரூராரு  
ளரோ.

47. இறுமாந்திருப்பன்கொலோ சசன்-பல்கணத்தெ  
ன்னப்பட்டுச்  
இறுமானேந்திதன்சேவடிக கிழ்ச்சென்றங் கிறு  
மாந்திருப்பன்கொலோ

48. தெடிக்கண்டுகொண்டேன்-நிரு-மாலோடுநான்  
முகதூங்  
தெடிததேடொனைத்தேதவையென்னுள்ளே தே  
டிச்கண்டுகொண்டேன்.

45. Ears of mine, hear His praise,  
     Śiva, our flaming king.  
     Flaming as coral red His form :  
     Ears, hear men praises sing.

46. What kinsmen in that hour  
     When life departs, have we ?  
     Who but Kuttālam's dancing lord  
     Can then our kinsman be ?

47. How proud shall I be there,  
     One of His heavenly host,  
     At His fair feet who holds the deer,  
     How proud will be my boast !

48. I sought Him and I found.  
     Brahm sought in vain on high.  
     Vishnu delved vainly underground.  
     Him in my soul found I.

---

The mystic can never be a satisfied ceremonialist. These Śaivite devotees commonly praise the god of a particular shrine in language which might suggest that Śiva is only to be found there. And everyone who knows India remembers the ceaseless streams of pilgrims journeying to the Ganges or the Cauvery (Tamil Kāvīrī), to Rāmēśwaram or Cape Comorin or a hundred other holy places. But with a fine inconsistency these ancient singers sometimes point men away from externalities to a worship inward and spiritual; witness the following hymn. As to the terms used in v. 50, Vedas are the religious works of the highest authority, Śāstras are philosophical and practical works based on them, while Vēdāngas are sciences subordinate to the Vedas, and there are six of them.

## 56 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

49. கங்கையாடிலென்காவிரியாடிலென்  
கொங்குதண்குமரித்துறையாடிலெ  
னெங்குமாக்டலோ தரீராடிலெ  
னெங்குமீசனெநுதவாக்கில்லையே.

50. வேதமோதிலென்சாததிரங்கேட்கிலை  
ஏதிருஷ்பலித்தல்பயிற்றிலை  
நேநுதியங்கமோராறுமுணரிலை  
ஏசீனாயுள்குவர்க்கண்றியில்லையே.

51. காணாடுகலந்து திரியிலை  
ஏனமின் றியிருந்தவஞ்செய்யிலை  
ஊளையுண்டலொழிந்துவாடுநூக்கிலென்  
ஞான என னபவர்க்கண்றிநன்கில்லையே.

52. நன்றானோற்கிலென்பட்டி னியாகிலென்  
குஞ்சமேற்றியிருந்தவஞ்செய்யிலென்  
கென்றுகீற்றுவித்துத் திரியிலை  
னெந்றுமீசனென்பார்க்கண்றியில்லையே.

49. Why bathe in Gaṅga's stream, or Kāvīrī ?  
 Why go to Comorin in Kongu's land ?  
 Why seek the waters of the sounding sea ?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, who call  
 In every place upon the Lord of all.

50. Why chant the Vedas, hear the Śāstras' lore ?  
 Why daily teach the books of righteousness ?  
 Why the Vēdāṅgas six say o'er and o'er ?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, whose heart  
 From thinking of its Lord shall ne'er depart.

51 Why roam the jungle, wander cities through ?  
 Why plague life with unstinting penance hard ?  
 Why eat no flesh, and gaze into the blue ?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, who cry  
 Unceasing to the Lord of wisdom high.

52. Why fast and starve, why suffer pains austere ?  
 Why climb the mountains, doing penance harsh ?  
 Why go to bathe in waters far and near ?  
 Release is theirs, and theirs alone, who call  
 At every time upon the Lord of all.

---

It looks like a sudden drop when the same writer in our next hymn seems to say that everything depends upon the pronunciation of the five sacred syllables which can be translated 'Hail, Siva!' In the later development of Śaivism the pronunciation of these syllables was exalted into a primary religious duty. But in the creative period in which these hymns were written the name probably stood for the person, so that we have here a religious 'calling upon the name of

58 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

53 சௌற்றுணவேதியன்சோதிவானவன்  
பொற்றுணவிருந்ததிபொருந்தக்கைதொழுக்  
கற்றுணவப்பூட்டியோர்கடலிறபாய்ச்சினும்  
நற்றுணயாவதுநமச்சிவாயவே

54 பூவினுக்கருங்கலம்பொங்குதாமரை  
யாவினுக்கருங்கலமாறாஞ்சாடுதல்  
கோவினுக்கருங்கலமோகாட்டமில்லது  
நாவினுக்கருங்கலநமச்சிவாயவே.

55 வெந்தனீற்றுங்கலமவிரதிகட்டகலா  
மந்தனார்க்கருங்கலமருமனையாறங்கந  
திங்களுக்கருங்கலதிகமூநீண்முடி  
நங்களுக்கருங்கலநமச்சிவாயவே.

the Lord' in the devotion of worship. In the first stanza there is a remarkable use of the term 'Word' Modern Śaivites identify this 'Word' with Umā, Śiva's consort. We can compare the Sanskrit Vāk (Word) in the Rig Vēda.

The last lines of verse 53 are connected in the minds of Śaivites with a story that Apparswāmi was actually sunk in the sea by Jain persecutors, with two great stones tied to him, but on crying 'Hail, Śiva!' he floated to the surface.

The five products of the cow referred to in verse 54 are all used together in ceremonial purification—milk, curds, ghee, urine, and dung.

53. O Lord of Scripture, whom the Word dōth help,  
 Celestial light of heaven, so I but praise,  
 With hands meetly upraised, Thy golden feet,  
 Then though men tie on me two weighty stones,  
 And sink me in the ocean's depth, e'en then  
 The cry 'Hail, Śiva,' would salvation be.

54. The lotus is the glory of all flowers ;  
 The glory of all kine is Hara's use  
 Of that which they put forth. Glory of kings  
 Is the unswerving straightness of their deeds  
 But if we ask the glory of the tongue,  
 'Tis to cry out aloud, 'Hail, Śiva, hail.'

55. For men who all renounce, 'tis glory true  
 To wear the sacred ash. For Brāhmans pure  
 The Vēdas and Vēdāngas are their pride.  
 The white moon's glory is to shine serene  
 On the long locks of Śiva, while for *us*  
 True glory is to cry 'Hail, Śiva, hail.'

60 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

56 கூற்றுயினவாறுவிலகக்கிலீர் கொடுமைபலசிசம்  
 தணான்றியே  
 னேற்றுயடிச்சீகயிரவும்பகலும் சிரியாதுவனங்கு  
 வளெப்பொழுதுங்  
 தோற்றுதெவ்வயிற்றினகமபடியே குட்ரோடுதொ  
 டக்கிமுடக்கியிட  
 ஆற்றேநடியேனதிகைக்கெட்டில் விரட்டானத்து  
 வையம்மானே.

57 மாதர்ப்பிறைககண்ணியானோமலையான்மகளோடும்  
 பாடிய  
 போதொடுசிர்கமந்தேததிப்புகுவாரவாஷின்புகு  
 வேன  
 யாதுஞ்சுவடிப்படாமலையாற்றடக்கின்றபோது  
 காதன்மடப்பிடியோடுகளிறுவருவனகண்டேன  
 கண்டேனவர்த்திருப்பாதங்கண்டறியாதனான்  
 கேன்.

Tradition connects our next stanza with a story of Apparswāmi being smitten with an inward disease when he forsook Śaivism and became a Jain. The pain proved, says the legend, a convincing argument which reconverted him, whereupon he was promptly cured. But internal evidence proves this hymn to have been composed long after his return to Śaivism. Nandi is the name of Siva's bull

56. Thou takest not my deadly pain away,  
 My torments, Nandi-rider, never cease ;  
 At Thy feet would I worship night and day,  
 But since my bowels writhe, and ne'er find peace,  
 I can no more ! O Sire, to Thee I cry,  
 Who dwell'st by Kedila, in Athihai.

---

Nature sometimes spoke to our author of God. The union of sexes even in animals one day spoke to him as a revelation of divine things.

57. I'll follow those who going to the shrine their praises sound,  
 With blooms and water for the god who wears  
 the moon so mild  
 All lovely in His locks, a garland wreathed His  
 neck around,  
 And with Him sing they Pārvati, the mountain  
 god's fair child.  
 Once as I went to Aiyāru, with light and  
 reverent tread,  
 I saw come two young elephants, male by  
 loved female led,  
 And in that sight I saw God's foot, saw  
 secret things unsaid.

62 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

58 கம்பனையெங்கள்கோவோதனேயாதிமூர்த்தி  
பங்கனேபரமேயாகியென்றென்றேபரவிசாலுஞ்  
செம்பொனைபவளக்ஞுன்றைதிகழுமலாப்பாதங்  
காண்பா  
னன்பனையலைந்துபோனேனதிளகவீரட்டஞாரே.

59 பண்ணினேர்மொழியாளுமைபங்கரோ  
மண்ணினுர்வலஞ்செய்மறைக்காட்டரோ  
கண்ணினுலுமைக்காணக்கதவினைத்  
தின்னாமாகத்திறந்தருள்செய்மினே.

God is the great yogi, the wielder of mystic powers.

58. "O greatly loved, our King, our Lord, from all eternity,

Our portion, our true mystic," thus from day to day I sing.

O golden one, O hill of coral, I in love of Thee  
Have wandered far and wide, Athihai Virattā-nam's king,

Have wandered far the shining blossom of Thy foot to see.

One whole hymn, from which our next verse is taken, is a prayer for the opening of a door. Tradition has it that the great locked temple door at Vedāranyam swung open in answer to this song.

59. Umā is Thy portion, whose words are like song.

In fair Maraikkādu men circle round Thee  
In worship O graciously open this door

That we Thy true servants Thy glory may see.

Here is a very popular stanza. There used to be a beggar in Madras who recited it, and it alone, all day long.

## 64 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

60 அரியானையந்தனர்தஞ்சு சிந்தையானை  
 யருமறையி னகததானை யனுவையார்க்குஞ்  
 தெரியாததததுவனைத் தேனைப்பாலைத்  
 திக்மூரளியைத்தேவர்கடங்கோனை மற்றைக்  
 கரியானை நரன்முக்கீனக்கனலை க்காற்றைக்  
 கணைகடலைக்குலவரையைக்கலந்துநின்ற  
 பெரியானைப்பெரும்பற்றப்புவிழுரானைப்  
 பேசாதநாளெல்லாம் பிறவாநாளே.

61 உழையுரித்த மாலுரிதோலாடையானே  
 யுமையவடம்பெருமானே யிமையோரே ரே  
 கணையிறுத்தகருங்கடனஞ்சுண்டகண்டா  
 கயிலாயமலையானேயுன்பாலன்பார்  
 யிமைபொறுத்தியென்பதுவும் பெரியோய்கின்றன்  
 கடன்றே பேரருஞ்சுன் பாலதன்றே  
 அழையுறுத்து மாமயில்களாடுஞ்சோலை யாவடு  
 தண்டுறையுறையும்மரே ரே.

60. He is ever hard to find, but He lives in the thought  
of the good,  
He is the innermost secret of Scripture, inscrutable,  
unknowable;  
He is honey and milk and the shining light. He  
is the king of the Devas,  
Immanent in Vishnu, in Brahmā, in flame and in  
wind,  
Yea in the mighty sounding sea and in the moun-  
tains.  
He is the great One who chooses Perumpattapuli-  
yūr for His own.  
If there be days when my tongue is dumb and  
speaks not of Him,  
Let no such days be counted in the record of my  
life.

---

Whatever karma may teach of the inevitable conse-  
quence of evil, devotees hold that they may count on  
receiving divine forgiveness, for which the gracious  
nature of God is a sufficient pledge and guarantee.

61. Thy throat the black sea's poison drank, as 'twere  
ambrosia sweet,  
O deer-skin wearer, Umā's lord, king of the gods  
on high;  
Kailāsa's hill is Thine abode, and when Thy  
lovers cry  
"Forgive our sin," great One, forgiveness is Thy  
duty meet;  
For with Thee is great grace, lord of celestial  
beings all,  
Who dwell'st in Āvaḍuturai, where peacocks  
dance and call.

## HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

திருக்கோயிலில்லாத திருவிலுருங்  
 திருவென்னீரணியாததிருவிலுரும்  
 பருக்கோடிப்பத்திமையாற் பாடாலுரும்  
 பாங்கினெடுபலதளிகளில்லாலுரும்  
 சிருப்போடுவென்சங்கழுதாலுரும்  
 விதானமும் வெணகொடியுமில்லாலுரும்  
 அருப்போடு மலர்பறித்திட்டுன்னாலுரும்  
 அவையெல்லாமுரல்லவடவிகாடே.

திருநாமமஞ்செழுத்துஞ் செபபாராகிற்  
 நீவன்னர் திறமொருகாற்பேசாராகில்  
 ஒருகாலுநதிருக்கோயில் சூழாகில்  
 உண்பதனமுன் மலர்பறித்திட்டுன்னாகில்  
 அருநோய்கள்கெடுவென்னீரணியாராகி  
 வளியற்றார் சிறந்தவாறேதோவென்னிற்  
 பெருநோய்கண்மிகநலியம்பெயர்த்துஞ்செத்த  
 அறப்பதற்கே தொழிலாகியிறக்கின்றாரே.

ரக்களேமணந்ததாரமவ்வயிற்றவரை யோம்புஞ்  
 சிக்குளேயமூந்தியீசன்றிறம்படேன்றவமதோரே  
 வொப்புளேபோலத்தோன்றி யதலுளேமறை  
 கண்டு  
 ரிக்களே பரத்தை யோம்ப வென்செம்வான் ஞே  
 றனேனே.

The dreadful fate in store for irreligious men that is of being slowly killed by sore sickness, then being born again to a joyless life that circles round once more to death in unending cycles of dreariness.

The 'letters five' in no. 63 refer to the five-syllabled phrase na-mah-Śi-vā-ya, whose praise is chanted in vv. 53-55.

62. The ill-starred town without a house of God,  
 Wherein white ash on no man's brow doth glow,  
 The town where pious praises are unsung,  
 Where are no wayside shrines men's faith to show,  
 Where none blow joyfully the conch-shell white,  
 Where spread no canopies, no flags appear,  
 Where none make flowery offerings ere they eat,  
 Call it no town, 'tis but a jungle drear.

63. If men speak not His name in letters five,  
 Nor e'er the fire-formed Śiva's praise repeat,  
 And never walk in reverence round His shrine,  
 And pluck no flowers for offering ere they eat,  
 If they for healing wear no sacred ash,  
 I'll tell you whereunto such men were born,  
 'Twas that foul plagues might torture them to death,  
 Then death bring rebirths endlessly forlorn.

Our last fragment from Apparswāmi is in the minor key, in which so many of his refrains are pitched. It seems to prove, contrary to tradition, that Appar was once a married man.

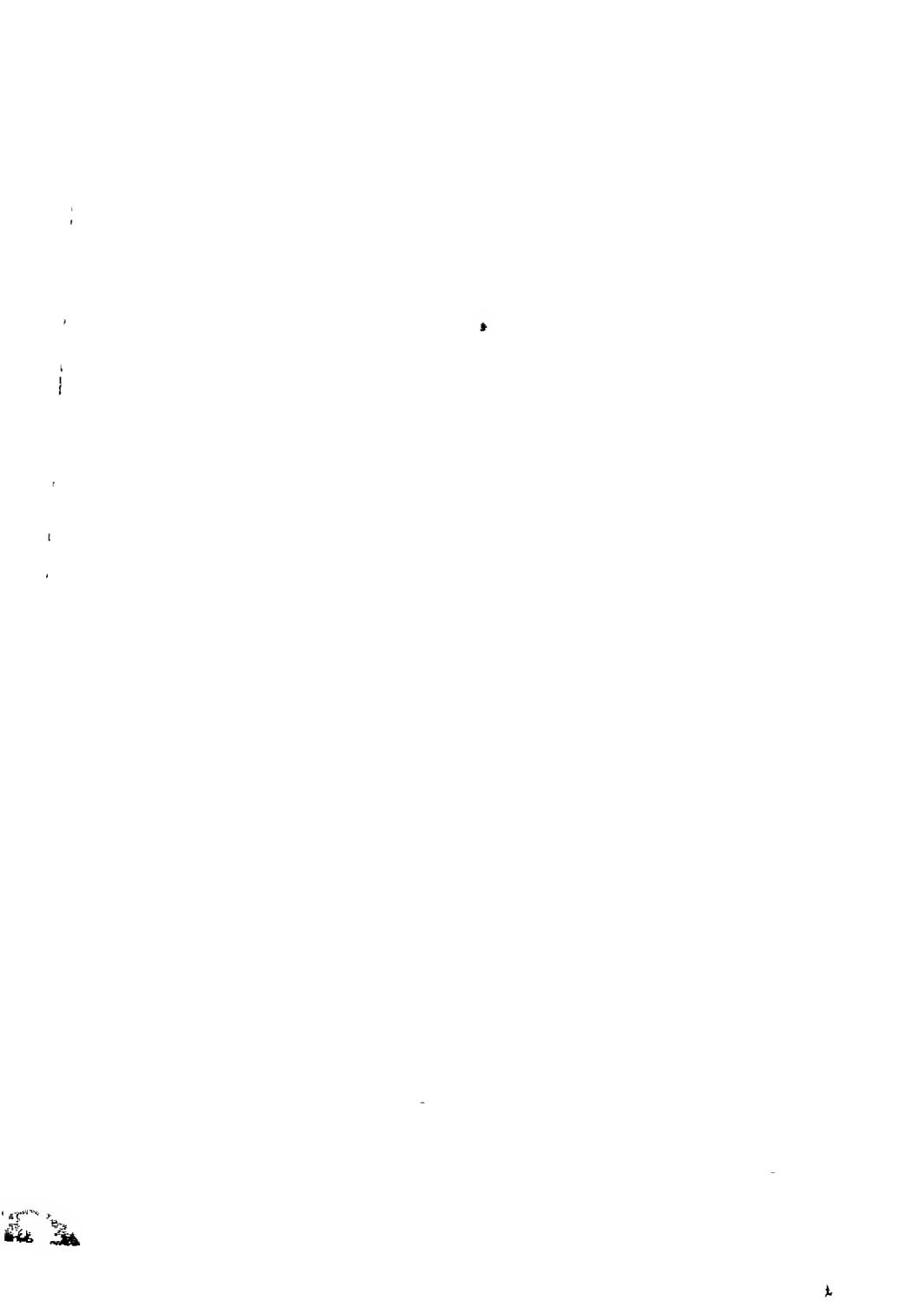
64. Immersed in painful cherishing  
 Of child and wedded wife,  
 No room is there in me to feel  
 Thy power, Lord of my life.  
 O whereunto came I to birth ?  
 To cherish this false world ?  
 Or watch it, bubble-like, appear,  
 Then be to nothing hurled ?



(By permission of the Director Col

SUNDARAMŪRTI

SUNDARAMŪRTI SWĀMI  
AND HIS  
HYMNS



### III. :

## SUNDARAMŪRTI SWĀMI

(Abbreviated as SUNDARAR)

THE third of these hymn-writers, named in full Sundaramūrti Swāmi, was, like Sambandar, a Brahman. He was born in the South Arcot District, and is generally believed to have flourished in the first quarter of the ninth century A.D. He evidently sat loose to caste scruples, for neither of his two wives was a Brahman. One was a dancing-girl in the Śaivite temple at Tiruvārūr, the modern Tiruvalur in the Tanjore District, while the other was a Vēlāla woman of Tiruvottiyūr, now a suburb of Madras. His life seems to have been no happier than life in polygamy usually is, and to add to his difficulties he sometimes found himself without food for his ladies to eat. He frankly praised God for what he could get, and on the whole his hymns are on a lower spiritual plane than those of the first two writers, though there are some which bear the marks of real spiritual experience. Of the sixty-three saints whom Śaivites hold in special honour, Sundarar seems to have been the last, for he sang the praises of the other sixty-two.

65      நற்றமிழ்வல்ல ஞானசம்பந்த  
           ஞானிலுக்கரையனுளைப் போவா இங்  
           கற்றகுதனாற்காக்கியன்சிலந்தி  
           கண்ணப்பன்கணம்புல்லவெனன் திவாகள்  
           குற்றஞ்செப்பிதுங்குணமெனக்கருதுங்  
           கொள்ளக கண்டுநின்குரைகழுலடைநடேன்  
           பொற்றிரண்மணிக்கமலங்கள்மலரும்  
           பொய்க்கசுழுதிருப்புங்கருளானே.

66 பெரன்னுர்மேனியனேபுலிதீடோலையரைக்கசைத்து  
           மின்னுர்செஞ்சலைமேலமினிர்கொன்றையனிந்த  
           வனே  
           மன்னேமாமணியேமழுபாடியுண்மரணிக்கமீ  
           யன்னேயுன்னையல்லாலினியராநினைக்கேனே.

Sundarar, as our first sample of him shews, was not only later than the two authors whom we have been studying; he was the last of the sixty-three canonized saints of Śaivism. A serious weakness of the religion here shews its head. Śiva has his favourites, who can do no wrong. The stanza is given in prose, for these names cannot fit into any English metrical line. The first two will be recognised as names of the poets whose work we have been considering. Nālaippōvān is Nandan, the pariah saint. Silandi (= spider) is Kōchchengaṭ Chola, who figures largely in early Tamil history.

65 Nānasambandar and Tirunāvukkarasar, skilled in the Tamil tongue, Nālaippōvān, learned Sūdan, Sākkīyan, Silandi, Kannappan, Kanampullan, these may do wrong, but yet Thou count'st it right. Hence have I come to the sounding anklets of Thy feet, O lord of Tiruppungūr with its pools where blossoms many a golden lotus gem.

---

To English ears the metre of the next two verses, which are common favourites, has a curious sound. It is a close reproduction of the Tamil, so close that the tune of the Tamil hymn could be sung to the English words

66 Golden art Thou in Thy form, girt around with the fierce tiger's skin,  
 Fair shines Thy tangle of hair, crowned with blooms from the kondai's bright tree,  
 Sov'reign, great jewel art Thou, the red ruby of Malapādi,  
 Mother, on Thee, none but Thee, can my heart evermore fixed be.

74 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIWHITE SAINTS

67 கிளர்கோவணமுந்திருந்துமெய்ப்பூசியுன்றன்  
ருளேவந்தடைந்தேதன்றலைவென்றேயேன்றுகொண்டே  
வாளர்கண்ணிபங்காயழுபாடியுண்மாணிக்கமே  
களாங்கின்னையல்லால்நியாரங்கினோக்கேனே.

68 பததிலமயுமதினமனயயுங்கைவிலோன்பாவிடேன்  
பொததினானோயதுவிதனைப்பொருளநிந்தேன்  
போப்ததொழுவேன்  
முத்தினைமாமணிதன்னைவயிரததழுர்க்கேனேன்  
ஏத்துனைநான்பிரிச்திருக்கேனைன்னாரிறை  
வலையே.

69 பித்தாயிறைக்கும்பெருமானேயருளாளா  
வெத்தான்மறவாடேதங்கினைக்கின்றேன்மனததுங்கை  
வைத்தாய்பென்னைத்தெதன்பால்வென்னையங்கல்லூ  
ராருட்டுக்கூறு  
ஏத்தாவுனக்காளாயினியல்லேவென்னாலாமே.

67. Clad in the little loin-cloth, my body with holy ash white,  
 Lo I have come to Thy foot, O my head, I beseech Thee, take me.  
 Portion of sword-eyed Umā, Thou red ruby of Malapādi,  
 Friend, 'tis on Thee, none but Thee, can my heart evermore fixèd be

---

Is the Śiva manifested at one shrine so distinct from the Śiva manifested at another as to endanger the unity of God? If tradition is right, the danger is very real, for Sundarar was already worshipping at one shrine, Tiruvottiyūr, when he remembered the lord of Ārūr, and deciding to go to him like a returning prodigal, sang this stanza.

68. Ah sinful, I have left the path of love and service pure!  
 Now know I well the meaning of my sickness and my pain.  
 I will go worship. Fool! how long can I so far remain  
 From Him, my pearl, my diamond rare, the king of great Ārūr.

---

The joy in God which shines in our next hymn evidently rests on some experience of divine grace which we should have liked to hear more definitely described.

69. O madman with the moon-crowned hair,  
 Thou lord of men, thou fount of grace,  
 How to forget Thee could I bear?  
 My soul hath aye for Thee a place.  
 Venney-nallūr, in "Grace's shrine"  
 South of the stream of Pennai, there  
 My father, I became all thine;  
 How could I now myself forswear?

76 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

70 நாயேனபலநாளுநினப்பின் நிமன த்துன்கீனப்  
 பேயாய்த்திரிநதெய்த்தேன்பெறலாகரவருள்பெற்  
 தேன்  
 வேயாபெண்ஜீன ததென்பாலவெண்ணெய்நல்லூர்  
 ருட்டுறையு  
 ஸாயாவுனக்காளாயினியல்லேனனலாமே.

71 முடியேனினிப்பிறவேன்பெறினருவேன்பெற்ற  
 மூர்தி  
 கொடியேன்பலபொய்யேயுரைப்பேனைக்குறிக்  
 கொண்ணீ  
 செடியார்பெண்ஜீன ததென்பாலவெண்ணெய்நல்  
 லூரருட்டுறையு  
 ஸடிகேனுனக்காளாயினியல்லேனனலாமே.

72 மற்றுப்பற்றெனக்கின்றினின்றிருப்பாதமேமனம்  
 பாவிததேன்  
 பெறறலும்பிறந்தெனினிப்பிறவாததன்மைவநதெ  
 யதினேன்  
 கற்றவர்தொழுதேத்துஞ்சீர்க்கறைருயிறபாண்டிக  
 கொடுமுடி  
 நற்றவாவுனைநான் மறக்கினுஞ்சொல்லுநாநமசசி  
 வாய்வே.

70. I roamed, a cur, for many days  
 Without a single thought of Thee,  
 Roamed and grew weary, then such grace  
 As none could win Thou gavest me.  
 Venney-nallūr, in "Grace's shrine"  
 Where bamboos fringe the Pennai, there  
 My Shepherd, I became all thine;  
 How could I now myself forswear?

71. Henceforth for me no birth, no death,  
 No creeping age, bull-rider mine.  
 Sinful and full of lying breath  
 Am I, but do Thou mark me Thine.  
 Venney-nallūr, in "Grace's shrine"  
 South of the wooded Pennai, there  
 My Master, I became all thine,  
 How could I now myself forswear?

---

The varying mood of the saint, now joyous and triumphant, now plaintively looking for death, is reflected in the next two verses from one hymn.

72 Linked to naught else in life, my mind thinks only  
 of Thy holy feet.  
 I'm born anew, from this time forth I pass the  
 way of birth no more.  
 In Kodumudi, lord austere, where wise men Thee  
 with praises greet,  
 Should I forget Thee, my own tongue 'Hail,  
 Šiva' crying, would adore.

78 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

73 ஓவுநானுணர்வழியுநானுயிர்போகுநானுயர்பாடை  
மேற்

காவுநாளிவையென்றலாற்கருதேன்கிளர்புனற்கா  
விரிப

பாவுதண்புனல்வந்திழிபரஞ்சோதிபாண்டிக்கொ  
இழுடி

நாவலாவுகினானான்மறக்கிலுஞ்சொல்லுநாநமசகி  
வாயவே.

74 அந்தனுள்ளுவன் னடைககலம்புகுத  
வவனைக காபபது காரணமாக  
வந்தகாலன் றனஞ்சிரதனை  
வவவினுய்க்குன றன் வன்மைகண்டியேன்  
ஏந்தைநியெனாமன் றமர்நலீயி  
விவன்மறைநன்டியானென விலக்குஞ  
கிந்தையாலவந்துன் றிருவடியடைந்தேன்  
செழும்பொழிற்றிருபடுன்கூருளானே.

73. When will the end draw nigh, sense fade, life close, and I the bier ascend?

This, naught but this, is all my thought. But, lord of speech, Thou light on high, Where the bright streams of Kāviri to Kodumudi coolness lend, Should I forget Thee, my own tongue to Thee would loud 'Hail, Śiva' cry.

---

God should deliver His own from death. The appeal here is to the familiar story of Markandeya (see No. 3). Yama is the god of death who gathers in the souls of men.

74. The young saint refuge sought from Death;

To save him, Thou grim Death did'st slay, Such deeds Thy might accomplisheth, And I who have beheld them pray "O Father, should dread Yama press On me, forbid him. 'Tis my slave'; Do Thou in green Pungūr confess I've reached Thy foot, and Thou can'st save."

---

Sundarar is sure that Śiva will understand his perplexities in supplying the needs of his fair ladies. For does not Śiva Himself bear the burden of two ladies, Pārvati his consort and Gangā (lady Ganges) in his hair? Sundarar, in the legend with which these verses are connected, when one of his wives was suffering hunger, miraculously received some uncooked rice from Śiva. This was not enough; to complete the miracle Śiva must remove the rice for him to Ārūr the abode of his fair one. This too was done in answer to the hymn of which the next two stanzas are a sample.

80 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

75 நீளானினாந் தழியே ஒமைநித்த வுங்கை தொழுவேன்  
 வாளன கண்மடவாளவள் வாடிவருந்தாமே  
 கோவிலியெம்பெருமான்குண்டையூச்சிலநெல்லு  
 பபெற்றே  
 னுளிலையெம்பெருமான்வையட்டித்தரப்பணியே.

76 பாதியோர்பெண்ணைவததாய்ப்படருஞ்சடைக்கங்  
 கைவைத்தாய்  
 மாதர்நல்லார்வருத்தமதுநீயுமறிதியன்றே  
 கோதில்பொழில்புடைகுழ்குண்டையூர்ச்சிலநெல்  
 னுபபெற்றே  
 னுதியேயற்புதனேயவையட்டித்தரப்பணியே.

77 தமமையேபுகழ்ந்திச்சைபேசினுஞ்சார்வி லுந  
 தொண்டர்தருகிலாப்  
 பொய்ம்மையாளரைப்பாடாதே பெந்தைபுகலூர்பா  
 மீன்புலவீர்கா  
 விம்மையேதருஞ்சோறுங்கறையுமேத்தலாமிடா  
 கெட்டுமாம்  
 அம்மையேசிவலேரகமாள்வதற்கியாதுமையுற  
 சில்லையே.

75. Ever I think but of Thee ;  
 Daily in worship I bow ;  
 She of the sword-piercing eyes,  
 Leave her not suffering now.  
 Kōlili's lord, Thou didst give  
 Rice in Kundaiyūr this day.  
 No man to bring it have I,  
 Bid it be sent me, I pray.

76. Thou art half woman Thyself ,  
 Gaṅgā is in Thy long hair.  
 Full well canst Thou comprehend  
 Burden of women so fair.  
 Kundaiyūr circled with gems,  
 There didst Thou give rice to-day.  
 Source of all, wonderful one,  
 Bid it be sent me, I pray.

---

The saint advises his fellow-poets to sing the praises of Śiva rather than the praises of men because they seldom reward the poets. Śiva rewards them here and hereafter. The Pāri mentioned in 78 was a chieftain in the Tamil country in the early centuries of our era, famed for his liberality.

77. Though ye fawn on men of lies,  
 They to saints will nothing give ;  
 Sing not them, O poets wise,  
 But if ye would wealth receive  
 Sing the Sire of Puhalūr ;  
 Here your wants will be supplied,  
 Pain will flee ; there evermore  
 Ye will kings in heav'n abide.

82 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

78 மிடுக்கிலாதாணவீமனேவிறல்விசயனேவில்லுக்கில  
வளென்று  
கொடுக்கிலாதாணப்பாரியேயென்றுக்ரிதுங்கொ  
டுப்பாரிலை  
பொடிக்கொள்மேனியெம்புண்ணியன்புகலுரைப்  
பாடுமின்புலவீர்கா  
அடுக்குமேலமருலகமாள்வதற்கியாதுமையுற  
வில்லையே.

79 வாழுவாவது மாயமமிது மன்னுவது திண்ணம்  
பாழுபோவது பிறவிக்கடல்பசிநோய்செய்தபறிதான்  
ஏழாதறஞ் செய்ம்மினரடக்கண்ணுணமல ரோதுங்  
கீழுமேலுற நின்றுன்றிருக்கேதாரமெ ஸீரே.

78. Call the weak by Bhima's name,  
 Style him Arjun with his bow,  
 Give the mean man Pāri's fame,  
 Not a gift will he bestow.  
 Sing, O bards, our holy God,  
 'White with ash, in Puhalūr.  
 In the deathless one's abode  
 Ye shall reign for evermore.

---

Life and experience have no value, no reality. God alone is real, the refuge from the unreal.

79 Our life is all unreal,  
 Its end is only dust,  
 Out of the sea of birth  
 Come run, pain and lust.  
 Delay not to do good  
 But praise Ketāram's king,  
 Whom Vishnu and great Brahm  
 Vainly sought sorrowing.



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MĀNIKKA VĀSAHĀR

MĀNIKKA VĀSAHAR  
AND HIS  
HYMNS

## IV.

### MĀNIKKA VĀSAHAR

(Sanskrit form MĀNIKYA VĀCHAKA)

IN the days when the powerful Pāndyan Kings flourished in Madura, there was once a prime minister who early became convinced of the transitoriness of this world's life and its riches. When on a visit to Perundurai, now Āvudaiyārkoil in the Tanjore District, he suddenly and completely came under the influence of a Brahman religious teacher, who for him was the manifestation of the very God Himself. Then and there he began to sing the "Sacred Utterance" (Tiruvāsaham), and was named by his preceptor "Utterer of Jewels" (Mānikka Vāsahar). Returning to Madura, he forsook his high office with all its rewards, to become a religious poet wandering without earthly attachments from shrine to shrine. The stories clustering around his religious experience can be read by English readers in Dr. Pope's great edition of his work. We find him practising austerities at Chidambaram, or miraculously giving the gift of speech to the dumb daughter of the Chōla king, or defeating in disputation a band of Buddhists from Ceylon, but of certain historical information about him we have practically none. Even the question of the century in which he lived is a battle-ground of the antiquarians. Tradition places him in the fifth century earlier than the writers of the *Devaram*

but the opinion of scholars seems to be converging on the view that he lived in the latter half of the ninth, or the first half of the tenth century of our era. Another of his works is the *Tirukkōvaiyār*, an erotic poem of four hundred stanzas. Among Tamil Śaivite writers none makes a stronger devotional appeal than Māṇikka Vāsahar. There is a common Tamil saying that nothing can melt the heart of the man who is not melted by the *Tiruvāsaham*.

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80 மெய்தா னரும்பி விதிர்விதிர்த துன்விலா யார்க  
மூற்கென்  
கைதான் றலைவைத்துக கண்ணீர் ததும்பி வெதும்  
பியுள்ளம்  
பொயதான் றவிர்ந்துன்னைப் போற்றி சயசய போற்  
றியென்னுக்  
கைதா னெகிழி விடேலுடை யாயென்னைக் கண்டு  
கொள்ளோ.

81 கொள்ளேன் புரந்தரன் மாலயன் வாழ்வு குடி  
கெட்டினு  
நள்ளே னினாதடி யாரோடல் லானர கமபுகினு  
மெள்ளேன் றிருவரு ளாலே யிருக்கப் பெறி  
னிறைவா  
வுள்ளேன் பிறதெய்வ முன்னையல் லாதெந்க ஞத்  
தமனே.

82 நாடதா னுன்னடியார் போனடித்து நானுவே  
விடகத்தே புகுந்திடுவான் மிகப்பெரிதும் விரை  
கின்றே  
ஞடகச்சீர் மணிக்குன்றே யிடையரு வன்புனக்கென்  
ஆடகத்தே னின்றருகத் தந்தருளெம் முடை  
யானே.

Stanzas 80-92 are samples from an opening poem of one hundred stanzas, each ten of which has its own metre and is fairly complete in itself. They fairly reflect the saint's varying moods. Notice the importance he attaches to emotion; his worst self-reproach is for feeling no frenzy. As to his conception of God, see how the word 'grace' recurs in nearly every stanza. And yet that God of grace is called (in No. 84) both being and non-existence.

## THE HUNDRED VERSES

80. Thrills and trembles my frame ;  
 Hands are lifted on high ;  
 Here at Thy fragrant feet,  
 Sobbing and weeping I cry ;  
 Falsehood forsaking, I shout,  
 "Victory, victory, praise!"  
 Lord of my life, these clasped hands  
 Worship shall bring Thee always.

81. Indra or Vishṇu or Brahm,  
 Their divine bliss crave not I ;  
 I seek the love of Thy saints,  
 Though my house perish thereby.  
 To the worst hell I will go,  
 So but Thy grace be with me.  
 Best of all, how could my heart  
 Think of a god beside Thee ?

---

82. Though like Thy saints I seem, 'tis but the acting  
 of a part  
 Yet wondrous swift I run to reach the heaven  
 where Thou art.  
 O hill of gold and precious gems, grant in Thy  
 grace to me  
 A heart to melt, lord of my life, in ceaseless  
 love to Thee.

90 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

83 யானேதும் பிறப்பஞ்சேனிறப்பதனுக் கென்  
கடவேன்  
வானேயும் பெறில்வேண்டேன் மண்ணூள்வான்  
மதித்துமிரேன்  
றேனேயு மலர்க்கொன்றைச் சிவனேயெம் பெரு  
மானெம  
மானேயுன் னருள்பெறுநா கொன்றென்றே  
வருந்துவனே.

84 வானுகி மண்ணுகி வளியாகி யோளியாகி  
ழுனுகி யுயிராகி யுண்மையுமா யின்மையுமாய்க்  
கோனுகி யானெனதென் றவரவரைக் கூத்தாட்டு  
வானுகி நின்றுயை யென்சொலலி வாழ்ததுவனே.

85 வெளாந்தாழ் விரிசடையாய் விடையாய் விண்  
ஞோர்  
பெருமானேயெனக்கேட்டுவேட்டநஞ்சாய்ப்  
பள்ளாந்தா மூறுபுனவிற் கீழ்மே லாகப்  
பதைத்துருகு மவர்நிற்க வென்னை யாண்டாய்க்  
குள்ளாந்தா ணின்றுச்சி யளவு நெஞ்சா  
யருகாதா துடம்பெல்லாங் கண்ணு யண்ணு  
வெளாந்தான் பாயாதா னெஞ்சங் கல்லாங்  
கண்ணினையு மரமாநதி ணினையி னேற்கே.

83. I have no fear of births, but quake at thought that  
I must die.

E'en heav'n to me were naught, for earth's whole  
empire what care I?

O Šiva wreathed with honeyed blossoms, "When  
shall come the morn

When Thou wilt grant Thy grace to me?" I cry  
with anguish torn.

84. The sky, earth, wind, the light, our very flesh and  
life art Thou,

Being art Thou, non-being too, Thou king, who  
see'st how

Men dance like puppets with their foolish thoughts  
of 'I' and 'Mine,'

While Thou the cords dost pull. What words can  
tell Thy praise divine?

85. At sound of cries like this, "O Bull-rider whose  
spreading hair

The falling stream receives! Heaven's Lord," true  
devotees there were,

Whose love-thrilled heart broke forth, like stopped-  
up rivers rushing down.

Yet Thou didst choose no one of them, but me to  
be Thine own.

And yet my body will not turn from heel to head  
one heart

To melt in love for Thee, one eye to shed the tears  
that smart

In swelling floods. Ah! wretched that I am, who  
only moan!

My two eyes are unfeeling wood, my heart a great  
dead stone!

86 வினையிலே கிடந்தேனைப் புகுநது நின்று  
பேரதுநான் வினைக்கேட னென்பாய் போல  
வினையனு னென்றுன்னை யறிவித் தென்னை  
யாட்கொண்டெம் பிரானுனும்க் கிருமனின்  
பரவை

யனையநான் பாடேனின ரூடே னந்தோ  
வலறிடே துலறிடே னுவி சோரேன  
முனைவனே முறையோநா னுன வாறு  
முடிவறியேன முதலந்த மாயினுனே.

87 கேட்டாரு மறியாதான் கேடொன் நில்லான்  
கிளையிலான் கேளாதே யெல்லாங் கேட்டா  
ஞட்டார்கள் விழித்திருப்ப ஞாலத் துள்ளே  
நாயினுக்குத் தலிசிடடு நாயி னேற்கே  
காட்டா தனவெல்லாங் காட்டிப் பின்னிந  
கேளா தனவெல்லாங் கேட்பித் தென்னை  
மிட்டேடும் பிறவாமற் காத்தாட்கொண்டா  
னெம்பெருமான் செய்திட்ட விச்சை தானே.

88 தேவர்கோ வறியாத தேவ தேவன்  
செழும்பொழில்கள் பயந்துகாத தழிக்கு மற்றை  
முவர்கோ னுப்பின்ற முதல்வன் மூர்த்தி  
முத்ரதை மாதானும் பாகத் தெநதை

86. Amid the fruits of deeds I lay. Thou didst thyself reveal  
 With words of comfort saying "Come, I will de-  
 struction deal  
 To evil fruit of deeds," and thus thou mad'st me  
 all Thy slave.  
 And yet I stand as if a statue made of steel, nor  
 rave,  
 Nor sing, nor cry, nor wail—woe's me—nor in my  
 spirit faint  
 With deep desire, so dull am I. O being ancient,  
 Thou art beginning, Thou art end: tell me, how  
 can I be  
 So dead at heart? The end of this I do not dare  
 to see.

---

87. Him though men seek, none fully know; in Him  
 no evil is.  
 None are His kindred; knowledge perfect, effort-  
 less is His  
 A cur am I, yet He hath giv'n to me in sight of  
 men  
 A place on earth, and shewed me things far beyond  
 mortal ken.  
 He told me what no ears can hear; from future  
 births He sav'd.  
 Such magic wrought my Lord who me hath lovingly  
 enslaved.

88. Our God of gods, whom e'en the devas' king knows  
 but in part,  
 Ruleth the three who in the fair world-gardens life  
 impart,  
 And life maintain, and life destroy; our First,  
 Reality,  
 Father of old, whose consort Umā is, our sovereign,  
 He

94 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

யாவர்கோ வென்னையுமவந் தாண்டு கொண்டான்  
யாமார்க்குந குடியல்லோம் யாது மஞ்சோ  
மேவினே மவனடியா ரடியா ரோடு  
மேன்மேனுங் குடைநதாடி யாடு வோமே.

89 செய்வ தறியாச் சிறநாயேன் செம்பொற் பாத  
மலாகாணைப்  
பெய்யர் பெறும்பே றத்தனையும பெறுதற் குரி  
யேன் பொய்யிலா  
மெய்யர் வெறியா மலர்ப்பாத் மேவக் கண்டுங்  
கேட்டிருந்தும்  
பொய்ய னேனு னுன்டுத்தின கிருப்ப தானேன்  
போரேரே

90 இழித்தன வென்னை யானே யெம்பிரான் போற்றி  
போற்றி  
பழித்திலே னுன்னை யென்னை யானுடைப்பாதம்  
போற்றி  
பிழைத்தவை பொறுக்கை யெல்லாம் பெரியவா  
கடமை போற்றி  
பொழித்திடவ ஏழங்கு போற்றி ஏம்பாந்த ஏடு  
போக்கே

Came down in grace and made even me to be His  
very own.

Henceforth before no man I bow, I fear but Him  
alone.

Now of His servants' servants I have joined the  
sacred throng,

And ever more and more I'll bathe in bliss, with  
dance and song.

89. The meanest cur am I; I know not how to do the  
right;

'Twere but what I deserve, should'st Thou my  
wickedness requite

With the dread fate of those who never saw Thy  
flowery feet;

For though mine eyes have seen, my ears have  
heard saints guileless, meet,

Who reached Thy fragrant presence, yet I stay, for  
false am I,

Fit for naught save to eat and dress, Lion of victory.

---

90. None but myself has sunk myself. Thy name be  
ever praised!

No blame lay I on Thee, lauds to my Master be  
upraised!

Yet to forgive is aye a mark of greatness. Praise  
to Thee!

Lord of the land celestial, Praise! O end this life  
for me.

96 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

91 மானேர் நோக்கி யுடையாள் பங்கா மறையீ ரதியா  
 மறையோனே  
 தேனே யமுதே சிங்கதைக் கரியாய் சிறியேன் பிழை  
 பொறுக்குங்  
 கோனே சிறிதே கொடுமை பறைந்தேன் சிவமா  
 நகர்க்குறுக்கப்  
 போனு ரதியார் யானும் பொய்யும் புறமே போங்  
 தோமே.

92 யானே பொய்யென் தென்சும் பொய்யென்  
 னன்பும்பொய்  
 ஆனால் வினையே னமுதா னுன்னைப் பெறலாமே  
 தேனே யமுதே கரும்பின் நெளிவே தித்திக்கு  
 மானே யருளா யடியே னுனைவந் துறுமாரே.

93 விச்ச தின்றியே விளைவு செய்குவாய்  
 வின்னூ மண்ணைக் குமுதும யாவையும  
 வைச்ச வாங்குவாய் வஞ்ச கப்பெபரும்  
 புலைய னேனையுன் கோயில் வாயிலிற்  
 பிச்ச னுக்கினுய் பெரிய வன்பருக்  
 குரிய னுக்கினுய் தாம்வ ளாத்ததோர்  
 நச்ச மாமர மாயி னுங்கொலார்  
 நானு மங்கனே யுடைய நாதனே.

91. The fawn-eyed maid is part of Thee! From  
holy writ Thou'rt hid!  
Thou'rt honey, yea ambrosia, by man's mind not  
compassèd.  
O king who bearest with my faults, some harsh  
words did I say.  
Thy saints have entered heaven. Without, false-  
hood and I still stay

92. Since I am false, and false my heart, and false my  
very love,  
Howe'er I weep, still held by deeds, can I reach  
Thee above?  
O honey, nectar, O essential sweetness, great as  
sweet,  
Grant grace to me to find the path that leads unto  
Thy feet.

93. Heav'n, earth, and all that therein is, thou makest  
without seed.  
Thou dost preserve and Thou destroy 'Tis Thou  
who hast decreed  
That I though treacherous, mean, should be a man  
who frenzied faints  
Before Thy temple gates, one with the band of  
Thy true saints.  
What men themselves have planted, e'en a poison-  
ous mango tree,  
They root not up O Lord of mine, as such a tree  
keep me.

---

Our next five stanzas, taken from a hymn of fifty,  
are full of the pathos expressed in the title, which is a  
refrain recurring in every verse. Only flashes of the  
light of the presence of God pierce the prevailing  
gloom. The saint cannot free himself from sensuality,

94 கடையவனேனைக்கருணையினுறகலந்தாண்டு  
கொண்ட  
விடையவனேவிட்டிடுதிகண்டாய்விறல்வேங்கை  
யின்றே  
அடையவனேமன்னுமுத்தரகோசமங்கைக்கரசே  
சடையவனேதளர்ந்தெனம்பிரா னென்னைத்தாங்கிக்கொள்ளே.

95 காருறுகண்ணியரமபுலனுற்றங்கரைமரமாய்  
வேருறுவேனைவிடுதிகண்டாயவீனங்குந்திருவா  
ளுருறைவாய்மன்னுமுத்தரகோசமங்கைக்கரசே  
வாருறழுண்முலையாள்பங்கவென்னைவளாபபலனே.

96 மறுத்தனன்யானுன்னருளாறியாமையிலென்ம  
ணியே  
வெறுத்தெனைவிட்டிடுதிகண்டாய்வினையின்றெ  
குதி  
யொறுத்தெனையாண்டுகொஞ்சத்தரகோசமங்கைக்க  
ரசே  
பொறுப்பரன்றேபெறியோர்சிறநாய்க்டம்பொய்  
யினையே.

even while he hates it. He wonders whether even the God who drank poison for others' sake will leave him alone.

WILT THOU LEAVE ME?

94 Mingling in grace with me, O rider of the bull,  
 Thou mad'st me Thine.  
 But wilt Thou leave me? Thou whose form in  
 the fierce tiger's skin is clad,  
 Uttarakōsamangai old has Thee for king. O lord  
 of mine  
 With matted hair, hold Thou me up; for I am  
 weary grown and sad.

95. Set in the marge of flowing stream that eats its  
 banks away, the tree  
 Shakes to its fall; and thus am I, my sense  
 bewitch'd by maids' dark eyes.  
 Uttarakōsamangai's king, spouse of gem-vested  
 Pārvati,  
 Who dwell'st in Ārūr holy, O protector, for my  
 help arise.

96. In ignorance I spurned thy grace. Dost Thou,  
 my gem, now me despise,  
 And wilt thou leave me? O destroy my sum of  
 deeds and make me thine.  
 Uttarakōsamangai's king, 'tis surely true, the  
 great and wise,  
 When only little curs play false, to mercy ever  
 will incline.

100 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

97 என்னையப்பாவஞ்சலென்பவரின் நினின் ரெய்தத்  
லைநதேன்  
மின்னையொப்பாய்விட்டி திகண்டாயுலமிக்கின்  
மெய்யே  
யுன்னையொப்பாய் டன் துமுத்தரகோசமங்கைக்  
கரசே  
யன்னையொப்பாயெனக்கத்தனைப்பாயென்னரும்  
பொருளே

98 ஏசிதுமயானுன்னையேத்திதுமென்பிழைக்கேகு  
மழந்து  
வேசதுவேணைவிடுதிகண்டாய்செம்பவளவெற்பிற்  
நேசடையாயென்னயாஞ்சடையாயசிற்றுயிரக்கி  
ரங்கிக்  
காய்சினவாலமுண்டாயமுதுணணக்கடையவனே.

97. With none to cheer me from my fear, far have I  
wandered wearily,

O Lightning-like, and wilt Thou leave me? If I  
truly thee compare,

Uttarakōsamangai's king, I find naught else resem-  
bling Thee,

But a true father, mother dear art Thou to me,  
my treasure rare.

98. Whether I praise or curse Thee, still I'm stained  
with sin and sorrowing.

Yet, wilt Thou leave me? Splendour shining  
like the red-hued coral mount,

Master, thou drankest poison black, the humbler  
beings pitying,

That I, Thy meanest one, might find no poison,  
but a nectar fount.

Our poet made songs which maidens might sing in their rhythmical games, or as they sat at the grinding-stone. In India the boatman sings as he rows, the ryot sings as he draws from the well, the sepoy sings on his march. A feature of such songs is the refrain, which is usually a mere collection of euphonic syllables, though it may have a meaning. Here are specimens of a few songs intended for women. The refrain of the first, "Ēlōrembāvāy" probably means "Receive and ponder what I say, O lady." The Grinding song, strangely enough, is used at funerals, as also is the 'Antiphony.' The song of 'The Three Castles' Destruction' is supposed to accompany play with a ball or a kind of shuttle called 'undī'. For the legend of the Three Castles, see page 7. 'The Shoulder-Play' is for some ancient game in which women grasped each other's shoulders.

99 முன்னைப்பழம்பொருட்குமுன்னைப்பழம்பொருளே

பின்னைப்புதுமைக்கும்பேர்த்துமபபெற்றியனே  
யுன்னைப்பிரானுகபபெற்றவுன்சிரடியோ  
முன்னடியாதாளபணிவோமாங்கவர்க்கேபாங்  
காஹோம்

அன்னவரேயெங்கணவராவாவரவருகநது

சொன்னபரிசேதொழும்பாய்ப்பணிசெய்வோம்  
இன்னவகையே யெமக்கெடுகோனல்குதியேல்  
என்னகுறையுமிலோமேலோரெம்பாவாய்.

100 உங்கலயிற்பின்னையுனக்கேயடைக்கலமென்

றங்கபபழஞ்சொற்புதுக்குமெம்மசசத்தா  
வெங்கள்பெருமாலுனக்கொள்றுரைப்போங்கே  
வெங்கொங்கைநின்னன்பரல்லாதோள்சேர்க  
வெங்கையுனக்கல்லாதெபபணியுஞ்செய்மற்க  
கங்குலபகலெங்கண்மற்றெருன்றுங்காணற்க  
வினிகிப்பரிசேயெமக்கெடுகோனல்குதியே  
வெங்கெழிலென்னாயிறைமக்கேலோரெம்பா  
வாய்.

101 வேதமுமவேள்வியுமாயினர்க்கு

மெய்மமையும்பொய்மையுடாயினர்க்குச்  
சேதியுமாயிருளரயினர்க்குத  
துன்பமுமாயின்பமாயினர்க்குப்  
பாதியுமாய்முற்றுமாயினர்க்குப  
பந்தமுமாய்வீமாயினருக்  
காதியுமந்தமுமாயினருக்  
கட்டுப்பரந்தங்கமிடத்துக்கமே

## SONG OF THE MAIDENS

99. Older are Thou than the oldest of all,  
 Newest of all that is new.  
 At Thy saints' feet we in service will fall,  
 We are Thy handmaidens true.  
 None but Thy bondsmen shall call us their own ;  
 Lord, we would none others wed ;  
 We would be slaves at their bidding alone :  
 So be our bliss perfected.

Ēlōrembāvāy.

100. "Sure for Thy child there is refuge with Thee,"  
 Trembling we take up the cry.  
 Hear, O our Lord, while we bring Thee one plea,  
 Grant but one boon for our joy.  
 May only Thy lovers rest on our breast,  
 Let our hands' labour be theirs.  
 Only on such our eyes night and day rest,  
 Then sun rise west, east, who cares ?

Ēlōrembāvāy.

## THE GRINDING SONG

101. Grind we the powder gold, that He may bathe ;  
 For He is Scripture, He is sacrifice ;  
 He's being's truth, and being's falsehood too ;  
 Light is He, yea, and He is darkness deep ;  
 He is deep sorrow, and true bliss is He ;  
 He is the half, and He again the whole ;  
 Bondage is He, but He is true release ;  
 He is the alpha, He the omega.

102 பூசுவதும் வெண்ணீருபூண்பதுவும் பொங்கரவும்  
பேசுவதுந்திருவாயான்மறைபோனுங்காணேம  
பூசுவதும்பேசுவதும்பூண்பதுவுங்கொண்டென்னை  
யிசனவெனவ்வுயிரக்குமியலபானுன்சாழுலோ.

103 என்ன ப்பரெனம்பிரானெல்லார்க்குநதானீசன்  
றுன்ன ம்பெய்கோவணமாக்கொள்ளுமதுவென்  
னேம.  
மன்னுகலைதுன னுபொருண்மறைநான்கேவான்ச  
ரடாத்  
தன்னையேகோவணமாசசாததினாங்காண்சாழுலோ.

104 கோயில்குகாடுகொலபுவித்தோனல்லடை  
தாயுமிலிதந்தையிலிதான் றனியன்காணேம  
தாயுமிலிதந்தையிலிதான் றனியனுயிடுங்  
காயிலுலகளைத்துங்கறபொடிகாண்சாழுலோ.

105 தானந்தமிலலான் றனையடைந்தநாயேனை  
யானந்தவெள்ளத்தழுத்துவிததான்காணேம  
யானந்தவெள்ளத்தழுத்துவிதத்திருவழிகள்  
வானுந்துதேவர்கட்கோவாவனபொருள்காண்சா  
ழுலோ.

## ŚIVA'S MYSTERIES (An Antiphony)

102. "His form is smeared with ashes white; the snake His strange adornment is;  
 The secret scriptures utters He what kind of god, my friend, is thus?"  
 "Why talk of ash-smear, holy speech, adornment strange? This only know,  
 This god, of every living thing is the true nature. Chālalō."

103. "My father and my master. He of all men Lord supreme, is clad  
 With but a hanging loin-cloth stitched, pray tell me, friend, is He not mad?"  
 "The Vedas four with meaning fraught, the everlasting Śāstras, know  
 That these are but the threads whereof is wove His loin-cloth Chālalō."

104. "The burning-ground's His temple fine, the tiger's skin His raiment is;  
 Father or mother hath He none; He's all alone;  
 my friend, see this."  
 "Though He no parents hath, no kin, yet should His anger kindle, lo,  
 The whole wide world would straightway turn to dust and ashes. Chālalō."

105. "Though I am but a cur, yet when I turned to Him who hath no end,  
 Into a sea of bliss He made me sink o'erwhelmed;  
 see this, my friend."  
 "Those holy feet that sank thee in the sea of bliss o'erwhelmed, know,  
 E'en to the very gods in heav'n they're richest treasure Chālalō"

106 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

106 வளைந்ததுவில்லுவினைந்ததுபூச  
ஹினாநதனமுப்புரமுந்தீபற  
வொருங்குடன்வெந்தவாறுநந்தீபற.

107 சரம்புகண்டிலமேகமபர்தங்கையி  
லோரம்பேமூப்புரமுந்தீபற  
வொன்றும்பெருமிகையுந்தீபற.

108 தச்சவிடுத்தலுநதாமடியிட்டலு  
மச்சமுறிந்ததென்றுந்தீபற  
வழிந்தனமுப்புரமுந்தீபற.

109 ஏழைத்தொழும்பனேனத்தனையோகாலமெல்  
லாம்  
பாழுக்கிறைத்தேன்பரம்பரைப்பணியாதே  
ஷுழிமுதற்சிந்தாதநன்மணிவந்தென்மிறவித்  
தாழைப்பறித்தவாதோனேக்கமாடாமோ.

## THE THREE CASTLES' DESTRUCTION

106. Bent was the bow, begun the fight,  
 The castles three were 'whelmèd quite, (Fly, undī)  
 Three castles blazing with one light. (Fly, undī)

\* \* \*

107. One bolt in Šiva's hand saw we,  
 One single bolt for castles three, (Fly, undī)  
 And e'en that one scarce needed He. (Fly, undī)

108. Cleft lay the car at His foot's tread,  
 The axle was all shatterèd, (Fly, undī)  
 Three castles ruined lay and dead (Fly, undī)

## THE SHOULDER-PLAY

109 Poor slave was I, how long I poured out all my  
 days for naught,  
 To Him the all-supreme no homage rendering!  
 Yet see,  
 How He, the jewel from eternal ages incorrupt,  
 Has come and drawn the prison-bolt of births,  
 and set me free.

Play we Tōpōkkam

---

In the poetry of all lands lovers have appealed to birds to be their messengers to the distant loved one. This is so common in Indian poetry as to have become a recognised convention. Here the saint sends his message of love and devotion, in one case by a humming bee, in the other by the Indian cuckoo, to Šiva who dwells in Tillai, *i.e.* Chidambaram.

110 வன்னெஞ்சக்கள்வன்மனவலியனென்னுதே  
கன்னெஞ்சருககிக்கருணையினுலாண்டுகொ  
ண்ட

வன்னைத்திலைக்குமழனி திலையம்பலவன்  
பொனனங்கழுக்கேசென்றாதாய்கோத்  
தும்பி.

111 நாடேயனைத்தன்னடிகள்பாடுவித்தநாயகனைப்  
பேயேனதுள்ளபயிழைபொறுக்கும்பெருமை  
யனைச்

தீயேதுமில்லாதென்செய்ப்பணிகள்கொண்டரு  
ஞந  
தாயானவீசற்கேசென்றாதாய்கோததும்பி.

112 நாலுமென்சிநதையுநாயகதுக்கெவ்விடத்தோந  
தாலுந்தன்றையதுந்தாழுச்சடையோனுண்டில  
னேல

வாலுந்திசைக்குருமாகடதுமாயபிரான்  
தேனுந்துசேவடிக்கேசென்றாதாய்கோததும்பி.

113 பொயயாயசெல்வத்தேபுக்கழுந்திநாடோறு  
மெய்யாக்கருதிக்கிடத்தேனையாடகொண்ட  
வையாவென்னாருயிரேயம்பலவாவென்றவன்  
நன்

செய்யார்மலரடிக்கேசென்றாதாய்கோததும்பி.

## THE BEE'S MESSAGE

110. Hard-hearted thief, stiff-necked was I, but no such name He called me ;  
 My stony heart He melted, and by mercy He enthralled me,  
 The swans abound in Tillai's lovely hall of gold,  
 His dwelling.  
 Fly, king of bees, at His gold anklets hum, my message telling.

111. Cur though I am, my lord has set me His great glory singing,  
 To me, the mad, His patient grace is aye forgiveness bringing ;  
 Scorning me not, He deigns to take the service  
 I can do Him  
 Mother and God. Go, king of bees, hum thou my message to Him

112. Far would my heart and mind have gone from  
 Him, but He compelled me,  
 The lord with tangled locks, and His fair spouse,  
 they saved and held me.  
 He is the sky, the mighty sea, east, west, north,  
 south, indwelling.  
 His feet with honey drop. There, king of bees,  
 my praise be telling.

113. In this world's treasure false immersed lay I, and self-deceived,  
 Held it for treasure true, but for His own He me received.  
 My precious life itself is He, in Tillai's hall abiding  
 Go, king of bees, at His red lotus feet my words confiding.

110 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

114 தென்பழச்சோலைபயி துஞ்சிறகுயிலேயிது  
கேணீ  
வான்பழித்திமமண்புகுந்துமனிதரையாட்கொ  
ண்டவள்ள  
ஹன்பழித்துள்ளமபுகுநதன்துணாவதுவாய  
வொருத்தன்  
மரன்பழித்தாண்டமென்னேக்கிமணைளைணீசீவ  
ஈக்கவாய.

115 போற்றியென்வாழ்முதலாகியபொருளே  
புலர்ந்ததுழுங்கழுந்தினை துணைமலாகொண்  
டேத்தினின்றிருமுகத்தெதமககருண்மலரு  
மெழினகைகரண்டுனின்றிருவடிதொழுகோஞ  
சேற்றிதழ்க்கமலங்கண்மலருநதன்வயல்குழ்  
திருப்பெபருந்துறையுறைக்வெபெபருமானே  
யேற்றுயர்கொடியுடையாயெனையுடையா  
யெமபெருமான்பள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே.

## THE CUCKOO'S ERRAND

114. Hear, little cuckoo in the honey'd orchard groves.  
 Heav'n did He spurn; to save us men, to earth  
 He came,  
 Boundless in giving, recking naught of flesh of  
 mine,  
 Entered my mind, and there my very thought  
 became.  
 He, the alone, the spouse of her whose pure eye's  
 ray  
 Shames the gazelle in softness, call Him hither,  
 pray

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One of the little childishnesses involved in idolatry is that every morning with solemn ceremony the idol must be wakened from his sleep, bathed, and dressed. Here is a song with which he is roused from slumber. But notice how successfully our author has filled his poem with the fresh morning feeling, and the sights and sounds of the sudden break of the Indian dawn.

## THE IDOL'S AWAKENING

115. Hail to Thee, treasure rare,  
 Source of all prosperity,  
 Dawn has come, at Thy feet,  
 Flowers themselves, fair flowers lay we.  
 Praising Thee, we await  
 Smiles that blossom fair and sweet  
 In Thy face, as we fall  
 Prone adoring at Thy feet.

Siva, Lord, dweller in  
 Perundurai, where expand  
 Lotus flowers, petalled white,  
 In the cool moist pasture land,  
 Thou whose flag is the bull,  
 Thou the Lord of all my ways,  
 Now O Lord of us all,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

112 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

116 அருணனிந்திரன் நிசையனுகினனிருள்போ  
 யகன்றதுவுதயங்மலாத்திருமுகததின்  
 கருணையினசூரியனே மூவெழுநயனக்  
 சதிமலர்மலரமற்றண்ணலங்கண்ணா  
 திரணிரையறுபதமுரல்வனாவிலையோர்  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவபெருமானே  
 மருணிதிதரவருமானநதமலையே  
 யலைகடலேபளனியெழுந்தருளாயே.

117 கூவினசூங்குயில்கூவினகோழி  
 குருகுகளியமபினவியம்பினசங்க  
 மோவினதாரகையொளியொளியுதயத்  
 தொருபபடுகின்றதுவிருப்பொடுங்கமக்குத்  
 தேவநற்செறிகழுற்றுளிணைகாட்டாய்  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவபெருமானே  
 யாவருமறிவரியாயெமக்கெளியா  
 யெம்பெருமான்பள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே.

116. Now anigh Indra's East  
 Draws the sun ; dark flies apace  
 At the dawn ; and the sun  
 Of the kindness in Thy face  
 Riseth high'r, ever high'r,  
 As like fair flowers opening,  
 Eyes unclose from their sleep,  
 Eyes of Thee our beauteous king.

Hear how now clouds of bees  
 Humming bright fill all the air.  
 Siva, Lord, dweller in  
 Holy Perundurai fair,  
 Thou wilt come to bestow  
 Favours rich, Oh shew Thy face !  
 Mountain-joy, ocean-bliss,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

117 Cocks now crow to the morn,  
 While the cuckoos loudly call ;  
 Little birds sweetly sing,  
 And the conch-shell sounds o'er all ,  
 Light of stars fades away  
 Into common light of day ;  
 Dawn and sun come as one,  
 Now to us, O God, display

In Thy love Thy twin feet,  
 Gracious, decked with anklets rare.  
 Siva, Lord, dweller in holy Perundurai fair,  
 Hard for all men to find,  
 Yet to me Thou shewedst Thy face.  
 Now O Lord of us all,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

114 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

118 இன்னிசைவீஜையரியாழினரொருபா  
 லிருக்கொடுதோத்திரமியமயினரொருபாற்  
 துன்னியப்பைனமலர்க்கையினரொருபாற்  
 ரெழுகையரழுகையர்துவள்கையரொருபாற்  
 சென்னியிலஞ்சவீக்ப்பினரொருபாற்  
 றிருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவபெருமானே  
 யென்னையுமான்டுகொண்டினனாருள்புரிய  
 மெமபெருமான்பள்ளியெழுந்தருளாயே.

119 உடையாளுன்றனடுவிருக்குமுடையாணடுவனீ  
 யிருத்தி  
 யடியேனடுவனிருவீருமிருப்பதானுலடியேதுன்  
 னடியார்நடுவனிருக்குமருளைப்புரியாய்பொன்  
 னம்பலத்தெம்  
 முடியாமுதலேயென்கருத்துமுடியும்வண்ண  
 முன்னின்றே.

118. On this side some men play  
 Lutes and viṇas sweet of sound ;  
 On that side some men chant  
 Ancient Rik, their songs resound ;  
 In their hands some have brought  
 Wreaths of many blossoms wove ;  
 Some bow down, some men weep,  
 Some men sway, o'ercome by love ;

Clasping hands o'er their heads,  
 Others stand with reverent air ,  
 Šiva, Lord, dweller in  
 Holy Perundurai fair,  
 Even me didst thou save ;  
 Sweet to me have been Thy ways.  
 Now, O Lord of us all,  
 From Thy couch rise in Thy grace.

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The rest of our specimens of the 'Holy Utterances' may be left to explain themselves without comment, save for a single line of title. Where two or more stanzas are given from a poem, the title here given is a translation from the Tamil.

#### ONLY WITH THEE AND THY SAINTS !

119. Our lady aye is in Thy heart,  
 As Thou in hers ; and if ye both  
 In mine do dwell, grant me a part  
 Among your slaves, O ever First  
 Unending lord, in Tillai's hall who dost abide,  
 Let this deep yearning of my soul be satisfied.

120 தந்ததுண்றன்னைக்கொண்டதென்றன்னைச்  
சங்கராவார்கொலோசதுர  
ஏந்தமொன்றில்லாவானந்தம்பெற்றே  
நியாதுநீபெற்றதீான்தென்பாற்  
கின்தையேகோயில்கொண்டவெம்பெருமான்  
நிருபபெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
யெந்தையேயீசாவுடவிடங்கொண்டா  
யானிதற்கில்லோர்கைமமாறே.

121 வெஞ்சேலனையகண்ஞாதம்வெகுளிவலையிலகப  
பட்டு  
ஙைஞ்சேலையேன்ஞானச்சுடரோநானேர்துணைகா  
ணேன்  
பஞ்சேரதியாளபாகத்தொருவாபவளத்திரு  
வாயா  
லஞ்சேலென்னவாகைப்பட்டேன்கண்டாயம்  
மானே.

122 பாரோடுவின்ஞூய்ப்பாந்தவெம்பானே  
பற்றுநான்மற்றிலேன்கண்டாய்  
தீரோடுபொளிவாய்சிவபுரத்தரசே  
திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
யாரோடுநோகேனூர்க்கெடுத்துரைக்கே  
ஞன்டீயருளிலையானால்  
வாகடலுலகில்வாழ்கிலேன்கண்டாய்  
வருகவென்றருள்புரியாயே.

## WHAT CAN I GIVE THEE?

120. Thou gav'st Thyself, Thou gained'st me ;  
 Which did the better bargain drive ?  
 Bliss found I in infinity ;  
 But what didst Thou from me derive ?  
 O Šiva, Perundurai's God,  
 My mind Thou tookest for Thy shrine :  
 My very body's Thine abode :  
 What can I give Thee, Lord, of mine ?

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## PASSION'S PAIN

121. Caught am I in passion's snare from women's  
 liquid eyes ;  
 Stabbed at heart, a cur. O wisdom's light,  
 no aid I see  
 Only lord, whose lady's feet are softer than the  
 down,  
 How I long to hear Thy coral lips speak cheer  
 to me.

## LONGINGS FOR DEATH

122. Our lord supreme, both earth and heav'n indwelling,  
 See how I have no other help but Thee.  
 Thou king of Šiva's world, bright beyond telling,  
 Dweller in Perundurai, look on me.  
 Who'll hear my cry, who list to my complaining,  
 If Thou Thy grace deny, who saved'st me ?  
 I find in sea-girt earth no joy remaining.  
 Now let Thy grace speak, bid me come to Thee.

118 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

123 பஞ்சின்மெல்லடியாளபங்கநீயல்லாற்  
 பற்றுநான்மற்றிலேன்கண்டாய்  
 செஞ்சவேயாண்டாய்சிவபுரத்தரசே  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
 யஞ்சினேஞ்சீயனைஞ்சுநீயளித்த  
 வருளினைமருளினைமறந்த  
 வஞ்சனேனிங்குவாழ்கிலேனகண்டாய்  
 வருகவென்றருள்புரியாயே.

124 பழுதிரூஸ்புகழாள்பங்கநீயல்லாற்  
 பற்றுநான் மற்றிலேன்கண்டாய்  
 செழுமதியனிந்தாய்சிவபுரத்தரசே  
 திருப்பெருந்துறையுறைசிவனே  
 தொழுவனே பிறரைததுதிப்பனேவனக்கோ  
 துணையென நினைவனே சொல்லாய்  
 மழவிடையானே வாழ்கிலேனகண்டாய்  
 வருகவென்றருள்புரியாயே.

125 பினக்கிலாதபெருந்துறைப்பெரு  
 மாலுன்னுமங்கள்பேசவாகக்  
 கிணக்கிலாததோரின்பமேவருந்  
 துன்பமேதுடைததெம்பிரா  
 னுனக்கிலாததோர்வித்துமேல்விளை  
 யாமலென்வினையொத்ததின்  
 கணக்கிலாதத்திருக்கோலநீவநது  
 காட்டினுயகருக்குன்றிலே.

123. In Thee she dwells whose feet than down are softer;  
 See how I have no other help but Thee.  
 Thou king of Siva's world, my gracious master,  
 Dweller in Perundurai, look on me.  
 Fear holds me; for, in dark confusion godless,  
 I did forget the grace that savèd me.  
 Dog and deceitful am I. Life is joyless.  
 Now let Thy grace speak, bid me come to Thee.

124. In Thee she dwells whose ancient praise is faultless;  
 See how I have no other help but Thee.  
 Thou king of Siva's world, the bright moon  
 wearing,  
 Dweller in Perundurai, look on me.  
 Whom save Thee could I worship with my  
 praises?  
 Can any other refuge give for me?  
 O Rider of the bull, my life is joyless.  
 Now let Thy grace speak, bid me come to Thee.

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### THE BALANCING OF DEEDS

125. O lord of Perundurai, place of peace,  
 To them who call Thy name, beyond compare  
 True joy art Thou. Thou mad'st my woe to  
 cease  
 When good and ill deeds done were balanced fair.  
 Then lest unwith'ring seeds of birth should  
 grow;  
 In Kalukundu Thy fair self didst shew.

120 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

126 எனைநென்பதறியேன்பகலிரவாவதுமறியேன்  
மனவாசககடந்தானெனைமத்தோன்மத்தனுக்  
கிச்  
சினமாலவிடையுடையான்மன் அதிருப்பெருந்து  
றையுறையும்  
பனவனைசீசய்தபடிரறியேன்பரஞ்சடரே.

127 வேங்டேந்புகழ்வேங்டேந்செல்வம்வேங்டே  
ந்மண்ணும்விண்ணும்  
வேங்டேந்பிறப்பிறப்புச்சிவம்வேந்டார்தமை  
நாளுந  
தீங்டேந்சென்றுசேர்க்கேதன்மன்னு திருப்பெ  
ருந்துறையிறைதாள  
ஞ்சேந்புறம்போகேனினிபுறம்போகலோட்  
டேனே.

128 கோற்றேனனக்கென்கோகுரைகடல்வாயமு  
தெங்கோ  
வாற்றேனங்களரனேயருமருக்கேபென்தரசே  
சேற்றுர்வயல்புடைசூழ்தருதிருப்பெருந்துறை  
யுறையு  
நீற்றுர்தருதிருமேனிசின்மலனேயுனையானே.

129 வான்பாவியவுகததவர்தவமேசெயவவமே  
தூன்பாவியவுடலீசுமநதடவிமரமானேன்  
மேன்பாய்மலர்க்கென்றைமன்னுதிருப்பெருந்  
துறையுறைவாய்  
நான்பாவியனுலுனைநல்காயெனலாமே.

## LIFE'S CONSUMING

126. Myself I cannot understand, nor what is day nor night;  
 He who both word and thought transcends has reft my senses quite,  
 He who for bull has Vishnu, and in Perundurai dwells,  
 O Light supreme, in Brähman guise has cast on me strange spells

127. I ask not fame, wealth, earth or heav'n. No birth, no death for me.  
 None will I touch who love not Siva. Now 'tis mine to see  
 Abiding Perundurai, wear the King's foot as my crown;  
 Never will I leave this His shrine, nor let Him leave His own.

128. Art Thou like honey on the branch too high for me to climb?  
 Or art Thou nectar ocean-churned? O Hara, King sublime,  
 In Perundurai, circled with moist fields, I can see Thee  
 With form ash-smeared, the spotless. Can I bear my ecstasy?

129. Many in this great earth who live do penance; I alone  
 Bearing this frame of flesh, a barren jungle-tree have grown.  
 Dweller in Perundurai old where blooms the kondai tree,  
 May I the sinner cry "Wilt Thou not grant Thyself to me"?

122 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

130 புற்றிலவாளரவுமஞ்சேன்பொய்யர்தம்மெய்யு  
மஞ்சேன்  
கற்றைவார்சஷடையெமமண்ணல்கண்ணுதல்பா  
தநண்ணி  
மற்றுமோர்தெய்வந்தனனையுண்டெனநினைந்  
தெம்பெம்மாற்  
கற்றிலாதவரைக்கண்டாலம்மநாமஞ்சமாறே.

131 வன்புலாலவேலுமஞ்சேனவளைக்கையார்க்கடைக்  
கணஞ்சே  
வென்பெலாமுருகநோக்கியமபலத்தாடுகின்ற  
வெனபொலாமணியையேத்தியினிதருள்பருக  
மாட்டா  
வன்பிலாதவரைக்கண்டாலம்மநாமஞ்சமாறே.

132 உம்பர்க்ட்காசேயோழிவறநிறைந்த  
யோகமேழுற்றையேன்றனக்கு  
வம்பெனப்பழுத்தெனகுழிமுழுதாண்டு  
வரழ்வறவாழ்வித்தமருந்தே  
செம்பொருட்டுனிவேசிருடைக்கழலே  
செல்வமேசிவபெருமானே  
பெய்மொருட்டுனினச்சிக்கெனப்பிடித்தே  
ஞங்கெழுநதருஞ்சினியே

## PICUS FEAR

130. I fear not serpents lurking smooth ;  
 I fear no liars' feignèd truth ;  
 But when I see fools venturing  
 E'en to the foot of Him our king,  
 Our three-eyed Lord with matted hair,  
 Of His great godhead unaware,  
 Fools thinking other gods can be,  
 Terror such sight inspires in me.

131. I fear no javelin's gory blade ,  
 Nor sidelong glance of bangled maid ,  
 But when I see men void of grace  
 Drinking no sweetness from the praise  
 Of my unchiselled Gem, whose dance  
 In Tillai's hall is seen, whose glance  
 Melts men's whole frame in ecstasy ,  
 Terror such sight inspires in me

## I CLING TO THEE

132. King of the heavenly ones ! All-filling Excellence !  
 E'en to vile me Thou Thy wonders hast shown ;  
 Balm of true bliss, ending false earthly bliss of  
 sense ,  
 Thou my whole household did'st take for Thine  
 own .  
 Meaning of holy writ ! Wondrous Thy glory !  
 True wealth, our Siva, to Thee, Lord, I cling .  
 Never to loose my hold, firmly I cling to Thee ;  
 Where canst Thou go, leaving me sorrowing ?

124 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

133 விடைவிடாதுகந்தவின்னவர்கோவே  
 வினையனே நுடையமெய்ப்பொருளே  
 முடைவிடாததியேன் முத்தறமண்ணுய்  
 முழுப்புழுக்குரம்பையிற்கிடந்து  
 கடைப்படாவண்ணங்காத்தெனையாண்ட  
 கடவுளேகருணைமாகடலே  
 விடைவிடாதுனைச்சிக்கெனப்பிடித்தே  
 எனக்கெழுந்தருஞ்சினியே.

134 புந்புலால்யாக்கைபுரைபுரைகளியப்  
 பொன்னெடுகோயிலாப்புகுநதென்  
 வெனபெலாமுருக்கியெளியையாயாண்ட  
 வீசனேமாசிலாமணியே  
 துன்பமேயிறப்பேயிறப்பொடுமயக்காங்  
 தொடக்கெலாமறுத்தநற்சோதி  
 யினபமேயுன்னைச்சிக்கெனப்பிடித்தே  
 எனக்கெழுந்தருஞ்சினியே.

135 உற்றுரையான்வேண்டே ஞார்வேண்டேன்பேர்  
 வேண்டேன்  
 கற்றுரையான்வேண்டேன்கற்பனவுமினியமை  
 யுங்  
 குற்றுலத்தமர்ந்துறையுங்கூத்தாவுன்குரைக  
 முற்கே  
 கற்றுவின்மனம்பேரலக்கின்துருகவேண்டுவனே.

133. King of celestial ones, ever with bull for steed,  
 Evil am I, yet my riches art Thou ;  
 Lest I should rot in my foul flesh, and die indeed,  
 Thou hast preserved me, and Thine am I now.  
 Thou art our God ; Thou of grace art a boundless  
 sea,  
 Saved from my flesh, now to Thee, Lord, I cling.  
 Never to let Thee loose, firmly I cling to Thee,  
 Where canst Thou go, leaving me sorrowing ?

134. Thou dids't come into my vile fleshly body,  
 E'en as 'twere into some great golden shrine ;  
 Soft'ning and melting it all, Thou hast saved me,  
 Lord condescending, Thou gem all divine !  
 Sorrow and birth, death, all ties that deceived me,  
 Thou dids't remove, all my bonds severing ;  
 True bliss, our kindly Light, firmly I cling to  
 Thee ;  
 Where canst Thou go leaving me sorrowing ?

## NAUGHT BUT THY LOVE

135. I ask not kin, nor name, nor place,  
 Nor learnèd men's society.  
 Men's lore for me no value has ;  
 Kuttālam's lord, I come to Thee.  
 Wilt thou one boon on me bestow,  
 A heart to melt in longing sweet,  
 As yearns o'er new-born calf the cow,  
 In yearning for Thy sacred feet ?

126 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SAINTS

136 சிலமின்றினோன்பின்றிசசெறிவேயின்றியறிஷன்  
 றித  
 தோலினபாவைககூத்தாட்டாய்ச்சழன்றுவிழுந்  
 துகிடபபேஜை  
 மாலுங்காட்டிவழிகாட்டிலாராவுலகநெறியேறக்  
 கோலங்காட்டியாண்டாஜைக்கொடியேனென்றே  
 கூடுவதே.

137 முத்திநெறியறியாதமூர்க்கரொடிமுயல்வேஜைப்  
 பத்திநெறியறித்துப்பழவினைகள்பாறும்வன்  
 னானு  
 சித்தமலமறுவிததுச்சிவமாக்கியென்யாண்ட  
 வத்தனெனக்கருளியவாரூர்பெறுவாரச்சோவே.

138 நெறியல்லாதெறிதனைநெறியாகநினைவேஜைக்  
 கிறுநெறிகள்சேராமேதிதிருவருளேசேரும்வன்னாங்  
 குறிசொன்றுமில்லாதகூத்தன்றன்கூததையெ  
 னக்  
 கறியும்வன்னம்ருளியவாரூர்பெறுவாரச்சோவே.

## LONGING FOR UNION

136. I had no virtue, penance, knowledge, self-control.  
 A doll to turn  
 At others will I danced, whirled, fell. But me  
 He filled in every limb  
 With love's mad longing, and that I might climb  
 there whence is no return,  
 He shewed His beauty, made me His. Ah me,  
 when shall I go to Him ?

## THE WONDER OF GRACE

137. Fool's friend was I, none such may know  
 The way of freedom ; yet to me  
 He shew'd the path of love, that so  
 Fruit of past deeds might ended be  
 Cleansing my mind so foul, He made me like  
 a god.  
 Ah who could win that which the Father hath  
 bestowed ?

138. Thinking it right, sin's path I trod ;  
 But, so that I such paths might leave,  
 And find His grace, the dancing God,  
 Who far beyond our thought doth live,  
 O wonder passing great!—to me His dancing  
 shewed.  
 Ah who could win that which the Father hath  
 bestowed ?

## APPENDIX I

### SHRINES MENTIONED IN THESE POEMS

Āduturai, or Āvaduturai, in Tanjore District, now a station on the South Indian Railway.	Kuttālam, Tanjore District.
Āiyāru, twelve miles from Tanjore	Malapādi, South Arcot District, near Tīchinopoly
Ālavāy, or Uttarakosāmangai, Madura	Marakkādu, the modern Vethāranām, Tanjore District. Curiously enough, the modern name is the Sanskrit translation of the Tamil, meaning 'Forest of the Vedas,' i.e., lonely place where Vedas are studied.
Annāmalai, or Tiruvannāmalai, in South Arcot District.	Maruhal, on the Cauvery River, Tanjore District
Ārūr, Tiruvallur, Tanjore District	Neyttānam, on the Cauvery River, Tanjore District
Athhai Virāttānam, South Arcot District.	Ottiyūr, better known as Tiruvottiyur, a few miles north of Madras, now practically a suburb.
Bramāpuram, Shiyāli, Tanjore District.	Palanam, Tanjore District.
Chenkāttaukudi	Perumpattapuliyur, see Chidambaram.
Chidambaram, or Tillai, or Perumpattapuliyūr, in S Arcot District, the most venerated place of Saivism.	Perundūai, Āvudaiyārkoil, Tanjore District.
Chōla, one of the three great kingdoms into which the ancient Tamil country was divided.	Puhalūr
Comorin, extreme southern point of India, still a great place of pilgrimage.	Pungūr, seven miles from Shiyāli, Tanjore District.
Dharmapuram, near Tranquebar, Tanjore District.	Pūnturuttī
Kāvīri, or Cauvery, the most sacred river in South India	Puvāgam, twelve miles from Madura
Kachchi Ehambam, or Kānchipuram, the modern Conjeeveram, in North Arcot District	Tillai, see Chidambaram.
Kedila	Tiruputtūr, Ramnad District, near Pudukottah.
Kētāram	Tiruvannāmalai, see Annāmalai
Koḍumudi, near Erode, Coimbatore District.	Tiru Neyttānam, see Neyttānam
Kōliśi, near the modern Tiruvallur, Tanjore District	Tūngānamādam
Kongu	Uttarakosāmangai, Ramnad District
Kundaiyūr, near Tiruvallur, Tanjore District	Valīvalam on the Cauvery, Tanjore District.
Venneyallūr, South Arcot District.	

N.B.—"Tiru" is an epithet meaning "Holy," but where it has become practically part of the place-name, that name is given in this list as if it began with T

## APPENDIX II

### 1 OF TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION OF TAMIL LETTERS

Sanskrit	English	Pronunciation (approximate)
அ	a	u in punch
ஆ	ā	ā in rather
இ	i	i in sit
எ	ī	ī in clique
உ	u	u in full
ஊ	ū	ū in rule
ஏ	e	e in fed
ஈ	ē	a in fable
ஏ	aɪ	aɪ in aisle, but much shorter
ஒ	o	o in mobility
ஓ	ō	ō in noble
ஓ	au	ow in cow

### CONSONANTS

The Tamil alphabet is not fully phonetic as are the Sanskrit and the other Dravidian alphabets. Several letters indicate different sounds in different connections.

When mute in the begin- ning of a word after a hard consonant	After a soft consonant	In other places	Remarks
k (க)	g (ஞ)	h (ஹ)	Guttural
ch (ஞ)	j (ஜ)	s (ஸ)	This is pronounced as a palatal sibilant
t (த)	d (தி)	த	Cerebral, far back in the palate.
t (த)	d (த)	th	Dental purer than English dentals
p (ப)	b (பு)	p	Labial
t	d	?	Hard palatal ?, peculiar to Tamil as pronounced after a soft consonant.

130 HYMNS OF TAMIL SAIVITE SA

Tamil	Sanskrit	Translitera- tion	Pronunciation (approximate)
ங்	ঙ	ñ (before g)	n in singing
ஞ்	ঞ	ñ	n in ginger
ஞ்	ঞ	ñ	n stopped as far back as possible
ந & ஞ்	ন	n	as in English
ம்	ম	m	as in English
ய்	য	y	as in English
ர்	ৰ	r	as in English (when soft)
ல்	ল	l	as in English
வ	ৱ	v	as in English, but not so firm
ஷ்	—	l	r pronounced with the tongue as far back in the throat as pos- sible.
ஏ	এ	l	l pronounced by the palate

Sanskrit words, unless they have become mod Tamil usage, as, for example, in the author's na Vāsahar, are transhterated according to Sanskrit p on the system used in other books in this series, alphabet being represented as follows.—

k	kh	g	gh
ch	chh	j	jh
t	th	đ	đh
t	th	d	đh
p	ph	b	bh
y	r	l	v
s	sh	s	h
ti	m	h	

## INDEX

(THE NUMBERS ARE THOSE OF PAGES, NOT OF STANZAS.)

### **A**DIŚEsha, 7

Aiyārū, 61

Alvār, 4.

Aryan, 3.

Ash, sacred, 23

Astrology, 21.

Asuras, 7

Athikai Virattānam, 39, 43

Āvadūturai, 49, 65

Āvudaiyārkoll (Perundurai), 86, 111, 117 f., 121

**B**RAHMĀ, 4, 6, 13, 21, 39, 41, 55, 89.

Brahmans, 17, 33, 59, 71, 88

Buddhism, 11, 27, 86

### **C**AUVERY, 15, 55

Chidambaram (Tillai, Perumpattapuliyūr), 5, 17, 65, 86, 107, 109, 115, 131

Comorin, 57

Conjeeveram, 19

Consecration, 53

Cuckoo as messenger, 107

Cycles of existence, 67

**D**ANCE of Siva, 5, 6

Dēvāram, 2

**E**MOTION, emphasis upon, 89, 91, 125

**F**AVOURITISM in God, 73.

**G**AMES, songs sung in, 101 f

Ganges, 5, 23, 51, 79.

Grace, divine, 65, 89, 127

**H**ARA (Siva), 33

**I**DOL, worship of, 111

Indra, 51, 89, 113.

**J**AINS, 11, 27 33, 59, 61.

Joy in God, 47-51, 75, 77

**K**AİLĀSA, 5 39

Kāli, 5,

Kalukkundu, 119

Katpaha tree, 47

Kedila, 61

Kētāram, 83

Kodumudi, 77

Kōlih, 81

Kondai (cassia flower), 5 73, 121

Kulachchirai, 31.

Kūn Pāndiyan, 29

Kundaiyūr, 81.

Kuttālam, 125

**M**ADURA (Ālavāy, Uttara-kosamangai), 10, 19, 31, 33, 99

Mahādev (Siva), 51

Malapādi, 73

Mangaiyarkkarasi, 29

Mārkandeya, 15, 79

Maruhal, 27.

Meru, 7.

Minākshi, 31

Muyalahan, 5

**N**AMASIVĀYA, 25, 67

Nandan, 73.

Nandi (Siva's bull), 5, 61

Jatarājan (Śiva), Frontispiece, 5  
Neyttānam, 15.

DALNY, 15.  
Pāri, 81  
Pārvati (Umā), 5, 13, 59, 61, 63, 65, 75, 79, 93.  
Periya Purānam, 29.  
Pessimism, 51, 67, 83  
Pilgrimage, no need for, 57.  
Planets, 21.  
Puhalūr, 81.  
Pungūr, 79  
Pūnturuttī, 47  
Purānas, 4  
Pūvanam, 41.

RĀMESWARAM, 55.  
Rāvana, 7, 39  
Rig Veda, 3, 17, 59, 115  
Rudra, 3, 41.

SANKARA (Śiva), 51  
Shiyāli, 10, 11  
Sin, sense of, 43-47, 97, 99, 101.  
Śiva  
    Meaning of name, 3  
    Conception of, 4 f.  
    Blue-throated, 8  
    Delivering from death, 15, 79.  
    Including good and evil, 19, 103.

Unsearchable, 21.  
Immanent in all, 91  
His saving grace, 127.  
Śivāchāryar, 11.

TAMILIAN Antiquary, 29.  
Tantīas, 23  
Tifukkōvaiyār, 87.  
Tiruvāchakam, 2  
Tiruvallūr (Ārūr), 25, 71, 75, 79.  
Tiruvannāmalai, 13  
Tiruvottiyūr, 45, 71, 75.  
Trichinopoly (Chirāpalli), 19  
Tungānaimādam, 39

ŪMA (Parvati), 5, 13, 59, 61, 63, 65, 75, 79, 93.  
Unreality of life, 51, 83.

VĀDĀPI, 29.  
Vāk, 59  
Valivalam, 21.  
Vāsuki, 8.  
Vedāraniyam, 63  
Vedas, 55.  
Vedāngas, 55.  
Venneynallūr, 75.  
Vina, 49, 115.  
Vishnu, 4, 41, 83.

YAMA, 79

